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'Retirees will get 100% pensions'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ov. Ralph DLG Torres appeared in court yesterday to this far personally assure the CNMI's retirees that, even if the CNMI is going through financially difficult times, his priority is to ensure that retirees not only get paid 75% of their pension ben-

we've survived

» Judge: It's efits, as required in the **a miracle** Betty Johnson's class action settlement, but also the remaining 25%.

> While the CNMI government is not required to pay the 25% benefit payments under the Johnson settlement deal, it has voluntarily made

> > See RETIREES on Page 4

Suspended sentence in lawmaker's guilty plea

>> House floor leader **John Paul Sablan says** he was trying to avoid another vehicle

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

House floor leader Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) pleaded guilty Wednesday to reckless driving and

was sentenced to six months in prison, all suspended.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo also placed Sablan on one year of probation and or-

See SUSPENDED on Page 4



W ANTI-BTS DOGS

Division of Fish and Wildlife director Manny M. Pangelinan, center, conratulates Kevin Lee T. Kapileo, Joshua Joseph Diaz Lizama, and Leonora Aldan Blas for completing the CNMI Brown Tree Snake Canine Handler in the photo are Wendy, Keith, and Travis, DFW's new BTS dogs. IVA MALIRIN

Page 5

Story on



NMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang, extreme right, emerges from the the U.S. District Court for the NMI at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan after a hearing yesterday on the status of the NMI Settlement Fund. Also in the photo are Settlement Fund's investment consultant Wilshire Investments principal Maggie Ralbovsky, next to Tang, and Betty Johnson's counsels, Margery Bronster and

TORRES APPROVES FY 2020 BUDGET

72-hour work periods to carry over

By ERWIN ENCINARES

erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com

Government workers will have to endure reduced work hours just a little longer after Gov. Ralph DLG

fiscal year 2020 budget yesterday on

Capital Hill, with a nod toward an economy that is still reeling from the effects of Super Typhoon >> 'We aren't Yutu almost a year ago.

out of the Citing what the governor describes as a prudent and a safer decision, Torres an-

Torres signed the \$233.22-million nounced as he signed the fiscal year

See 72-HOUR on Page 4

Tourist births at 582 in 201

woods

By MARC A. VENUS marc_venus@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

The number of tourists who gave slightly up, from 561 live births in 2017 to 582 live births in 2018, according to the annual report of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

CHCC classifies mothers as "tourbirth in the CNMI in 2018 went ists" when they come from other

See TOURIST on Page 4



The CNMI need not look far to see concrete examples of the heroism of first responders.

PAGE 11



SCIENCE & TECH

Face-scanning technology seen in science fiction films is now in use at airports across the U.S.

PAGE 26



LIFE & STYLE

Get a glimpse into the lives of ordinary people in North Korea via YouTube channels.

PAGE 28



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Local

LDTF sets Resiliency Fest

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation will be hosting a Resiliency Fest on Oct. 26 at the

Marianas Business Plaza to celebrate the CNMI's recovery in the aftermath of Su-



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per Typhoon Yutu, which hit the CNMI in October 2018, and will be distributing relief goods at the event.

LDTF vice president Geralyn Dela Cruz told Saipan Tribune that first lady Diann Torres had learned that there were relief goods available for distribution, as they came in late and are from off-island. The CNMI Office of Grants Management had also ordered relief goods, but the goods also arrived late.

All relief goods will then be distributed to the public at the Resiliency Fest, while supplies last.

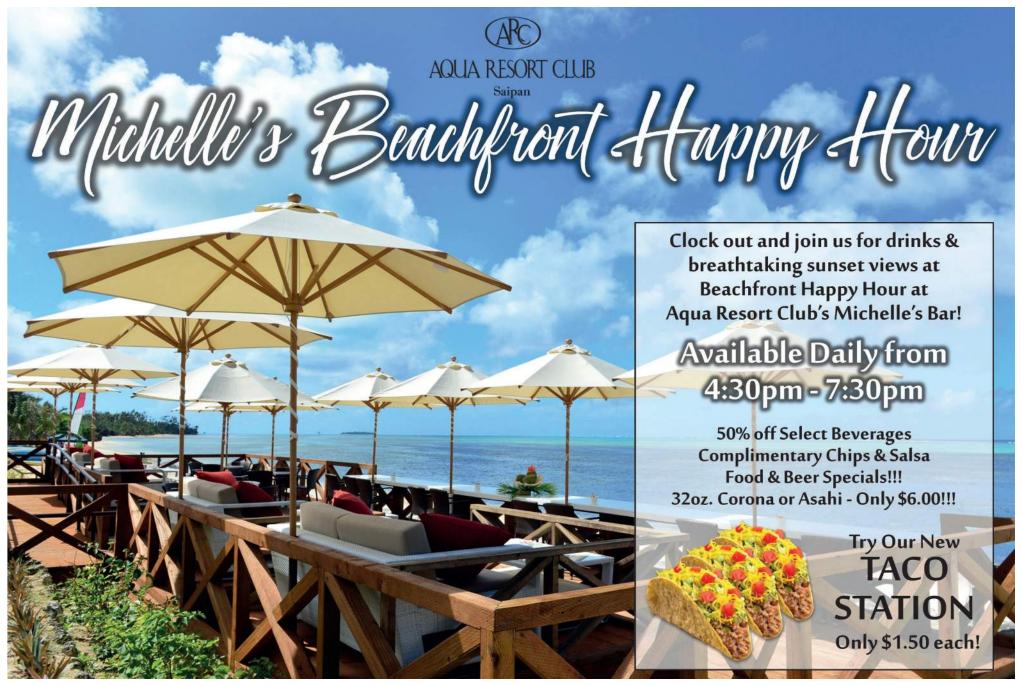
The Lady Diann Torres Foundation will also be unveiling the final work of Project Aligi at the Resiliency Fest.

This project was created by the foundation to decorate power poles throughout the CNMI in a move intended to inspire hope in the CNMI and to promote literacy and CNMI artists.

This project is ongoing on all three islands: Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. This project intends to keep the topic of "Marianas Strong" ongoing among the people of the CNMI.

The fest will also have a short concert, featuring local talent, and will have food vendors.

For more information, contact LDTF at (670) 235-5383. (Marc A. Venus)



Woman pleads guilty to shipping meth

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A woman who, along with two other persons, was indicted over the shipment of a package to her post office box that contained 110.03 grams of methamphetamine or "ice," pleaded guilty in federal court on Wednesday.

Elaine Francisco Demei, 26, pleaded guilty to the indictment that charged her with conspiracy to possess over 50 grams of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and a minimum sentence of 10 years in prison, plus a maximum fine of \$10 million.

Jan. 17, 2020 at 9am.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona allowed Demei to remain on release under the same terms and conditions that was previously ordered because it was reported by the U.S. Probation Office that she has been compliant.

According to the factual basis of the plea agreement, between Feb. 15 and 21, 2018, in the District of the NMI and elsewhere, Vince Koki Leon Guerrero and Evelyn Chon Tydingco agreed to possess over 50 grams of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute it to others on Saipan.

Demei knew of their agree-

picked up a package sent to her post office box, knowing it contained at least 50 grams of methamphetamine. She then gave it to Leon Guerrero and Tydingco.

The methamphetamine had a net weight of 110.03 grams and an approximate purity level of 100%. Court documents did not say where the "ice"

Mark Hanson is the courtappointed counsel for the defendant. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared for the U.S. government.

Demei's co-defendants, Leon Guerrero and Tydingco, have already pleaded not guilty and are also released on According to the indictment

their own recognizance.

filed last Aug. 1, between Feb. 15 to 21, 2018, Leon Guerrero, Tydingco, and Demei conspired, along with other persons, to possess over 50 grams of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute.







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RETIREES

From Page 1

payments to the retirees.

As of Sept. 15, 2019, there are 2.904 settlement class members or retirees. The membership decreased by 55 members from fiscal year 2017, according to the NMI Settlement Fund.

Torres told U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood that despite the challenges the CNMI is facing after Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation in October 2018, he and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, along with the Legislature, are committed to pay the retirees 100% of their pension benefits.

Tydingco-Gatewood vited Torres and Palacios to appear at yesterday's hearing pertaining to the status of the NMI Settlement Fund.

The governor said they go over their financial status every day and that the retirees are their No. 1 priority.

Torres thanked the government's vendors, who are being patient in waiting to get paid.

Torres said he and Palacios are open to options in order for the NMI Settlement Fund to be sustainable.

Tydingco-Gatewood herself judge said. said that, considering the destruction wrought by Yutu, she is surprised that Torres and his administration are still able to continue their commitment to pay 100% in pension benefits.

"It's almost impossible," Tydingco-Gatewood said.

The judge said it's a big decision for the administration and the Legislature to make the Settlement Fund sustainable.

According to NMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang, in order for the Fund to be sustainable by 2024, the CNMI government would need to make a lump sum payment of \$477.2 million to the Fund today.

Tydingco-Gatewood recalled that the status of the Retirement Fund was scary and devastating to the retirees six years ago. "It's a miracle we've survive this far," she added.

She credited the Fund's continued survival to Tang, Settlement Fund trustee and counsel for Betty Johnson, while stating that the success of the Settlement Fund would not have happened if not for the commitment of the CNMI government.

"It's remarkable," the pay for pensions.

At the end of the hearing, Tydingco-Gatewood recapped the proceedings by saying, "The word today is sustainability.'

Tang reported that at the end of fiscal year 2018, the balance in the Settlement Fund's investment account was \$82.9 million, while the balance as of July 31, 2019, was at \$97 million, showing a gain of \$14.5 million. For the first time, the Settlement Fund investment trend is now increasing, Tang said.

In a later interview, Torres said even the fact that the CNMI just got hit by the worst typhoons ever, his administration still prioritized the retirees. He pointed out that, whatever others may have said about the future of the pension benefits of retirees, they should listen to what Tydingco-Gatewood had said.

Torres said that Tydingco-Gatewood has acknowledged that the work relationship the Torres administration has with Tang and the government's \$1-million weekly payment to the Settlement Fund has actually helped the Fund make investments and reduced the amounts being drawn down to

Tang, along with the Settlement Fund's legal counsel Nicole Torres-Ripple and the Fund's investment consultant, Wilshire Investments principal Maggie Ralbovsky, made a presentation yesterday about the Fund's financials covering the period from the fourth quarter fiscal year 2017 through third quarter fiscal year 2019.

"Today is a good day to enjoy the fruits of our labor," Tang said.

To get the Settlement Fund to where it is today required the cooperation and commitment of Torres in making the payment required in the Johnson settlement agreement, Tang said.

Such cooperation and commitment have resulted in significant positive financial outcome for the Settlement Fund, she added.

"Without that, we wouldn't be here today," said the trustee, adding that Torres, Palacios, and the Legislature should get the credit.

She said they hope to continue working with them to obtain sustainability for the Settlement Fund.

"As you can see in our report, sustainability is imporgoing to require cooperation and commitment as well," she said. Tang said they look forward to working with the govern-

tant for the CNMI government

to move forward and that's

ment in finding solutions or a way to achieve sustainability, which means to be fully funded.

Citing Ralbovsky's presentation in court, Tang said they want to provide different options to the government and work with possibly some kind of a combination of funding and methodology to reach sustainability.

'It is something that it is important for not only to the retirees, but in order for the CNMI to move forward," she said.

Johnson's lead counsel, Margery S. Bronster, said the close to \$100 million that the Settlement Fund now has is very good news.

"But I think the best news is cooperation between the government and the Settlement Fund to try and work toward a process that might eventually make the Settlement Fund independent and sustainable," Bronster said.

Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who was among the many lawmakers who attended the hearing, addressed the court. She said what happened to the Settlement Fund is "quite amazing."

Sablan said she is a daughter of a retiree, who was scared about her pension benefits six years ago.

Sablan said she appreciates the thoroughness of the trustee's report.

The lawmaker, however, expressed the concern of some retirees, especially those who have no access to the internet, to have a regular update from the trustee.

"Retirees just want more communication," Sablan said.

Tang agreed to do more to provide updates to retirees who do not have internet access.

72-HOUR

From Page 1

2020 budget that the CNMI government will continue to observe a 72-hour work period and that this would carry over to the "first few months" of the fiscal year.

"I know everybody's [saying that] it's a new budget, therefore employees will come back to 80 hour [work periods]. We also know that appropriation is projected revenue, and I want to inform you that the 72-hour [workweeks] will continue for the next couple of months. The last thing Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and I want to do is lift the 72hour workweek and then come back in January saying, 'Oops, what we projected to come in has not come in," he stated before signing the budget.

Torres further noted that the decision to continue the alternating 72-hour workweek is intended to "safeguard ev-

erybody." He did express thanks to the Legislature for once again coming up with a budget bill in a timely manner, thereby averting a partial government shutdown for a second year.

"...To prevent further reductions in hours or perhaps laying off employment, I ask we continue to move forward with the 72 hours. There is revenue expected to come in. ...Until then, it is only to safeguard our employees and to deal with what we have in the next couple of months," the governor noted.

"As much as we want to lift the 72-hour workweek back to 80 hours, be mindful that the revenue and taxation is basically the same. The fact that it is a new fiscal year does not mean that all of a sudden, the heavens open up. ... We continue to incur the same expenses and we continue to collect the same revenue," Palacios added in a statement.

"We would love to...go

back to 80 hours but it is better to be fully honest with ourselves and to be prudent that we are really not out of the woods and we need to continue to be vigilant and to have collective fiscal restraint," he added. "We would love nothing else but [revert] to the 80-hour work schedule for our people, but at this point in time...it would be stupid, to say the least, on the governor's and my part to lift it, only to come back three, four months down the line to say we screwed up."

60-day target to revert to 80 hours

Palacios, during his statement, noted that the administration is looking at reverting to the 80hour workweeks in 60 days.

"We are looking, hoping, and crossing our fingers that we are going to [lift the austerity measure in 60 days],"

In response, Senate President Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) asked if there would be retroactive reimbursements.

"We've seen when things are moving right, we did that in the past. I just don't want to give false hope to anybody. If things do well, obviously that consideration will always be there, so the answer is we'll definitely look into that consideration if we have enough [funding]," he said.

The fiscal year 2020 budget is one of the rarer budgets that skipped the conference committee altogether. The legislation was introduced in the House by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) on June 27, 2019 and passed on first and final reading. The legislation was transmitted to the Senate soon after, and passed Aug. 22, 2019 after much discussions with several members of the House.

On Sept. 9, 2019, the House accepted Senate changes, skipping through the usual conference committee panel discussions and heads straight to the governor's office.

SUSPENDED

From Page 1

dered him to perform 40 hours of community service, attend alcohol information class, and pay \$120 in probation fee and \$25 in court fee.

Sablan, 39, is barred from consuming any alcoholic beverages during his probation. He was ordered to pay the Department of Public Works \$3,859 in restitution for replacing the damaged light post on the Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio Beach Road Pathway.

Sablan's driver's license was suspended for 30 days, but he may drive to and from work and for work purposes.

The remaining charges of driving under the influence of alcohol, refusal to submit to a breathalyzer test, making illegal U-turn, and two headlights required in driving, and accident (hitting a lamp post) were dropped.

According to a Department of Public Safety report, Sablan was driving a red Nissan vehicle in the early morning hours of Sept. 30, 2018, when he hit a Beach Road Pathway lamp.

Sablan was brought to the Department of Corrections for booking and detention immediately after, but was later released at 6:30am.

Saipan Tribune learned that the lawmaker was at Joe's Bar in Garapan that night and even won one of the major prizes in a raffle draw.

Assistant attorney general Robert Glass appeared as counsel for the government.

In an interview yesterday, Sablan said his lawyer, Vincent Torres, was initially working with the Office of the Attorney General on a plea agreement.

Sablan said the initial plea agreement offered by the OAG was that he would plead guilty to DUI and that other charges would be dismissed.

Sablan said that, as he has said in the past, he was not comfortable with pleading guilty to DUI based on the facts on the police report that there is no evidence that he was intoxicated.

The lawmaker said he made a counter-agreement with the OAG and that, on the day prior to his hearing, the OAG finally agreed that he would plead guilty to reckless driving.

Sablan said he decided to plead guilty to reckless driving at the advice of his counsel and it being consistent with his statements to the police.

"There was a vehicle that night that made a sudden stop in front of me. To avoid collision with the vehicle, I had to avoid and recklessly drove to the other lane, and eventually I swerved and hit the lamp post," he said.

Sablan said he told police that he was indeed at Joe's Bar at the early part of the night, where he consumed one or two cans of beers. Sablan said he was sober when the accident happened near 2am.

"I'm happy that it's over and behind me," said Sablan. He apologized to those who expressed disappointment with what happened. He said this has been very hard for him and his family and that he is happy that this is behind him.

Sablan thanked the police officers that provided service that night.

"They are very professional. I commend DPS and Department of Corrections for taking of the process that night. I always believe in the justice system," he said.

TOURIST

From Page 1

(predominantly countries Asia), and are only in the CNMI for a short period of time (usually several weeks).

Comparatively, CHCC also reported a rise in resident births, from 430 live births in 2017 to 492 in 2018. Mothers classified as "residents" are those who permanently reside in the CNMI and are citizens

of the United States or a Freely Associated State, or an immediate relative (e.g. husband, wife) of a U.S. or FAS citizen.

In the case of temporary residents, CHCC reports a decrease in births, from 218 in 2017 to 188 in 2018.

"Temporary residents" are non-permanent residents who are not U.S. or FAS citizens but who have been in the CNMI for several months/ years on short- or long-term visas, predominantly working visas.

In total, CHCC has seen an increase in overall births, from 1,209 births in 2017 to 1,262 births in 2018. According to the 2018 report, data collected dates back to 2011, with 2018 being the latest count. Within that time, CHCC counts 7,809 overall births from 2011 to 2018, with 4,212 resident births, 1,714 temporary resident births, and 3,145 tourist births.

"The CHCC aims to ben-

efit all mothers and babies who come through our doors," CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis said. Travis informed Saipan Tribune that CHCC's biggest concern is that too often, women arrive to deliver babies with no history of prenatal care and this puts the baby and mother in danger.

Most births are delivered at Saipan's lone hospital, the Commonwealth Health Center.

DFW gets new dogs in fight vs tree snake

The CNMI has three new doggy protectors.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources has acquired three new dogs that will help keep the CNMI free of brown tree snakes.

The dogs, Wendy, Keith, and Travis, are paired with handlers Kevin Lee T. Kapileo, Joshua Joseph Diaz Lizama, and Leonora Aldan Blas, who completed the CNMI Brown Tree Snake Canine Handler Training Program of the Division of Fish and Wildlife yesterday at the DLNR compound in Lower Base.

DFW director Manny M. Pangelinan said the six-month training taught the handlers how to effectively work with their dogs in combatting the possible entry of brown tree snakes into the Commonwealth.

The CNMI's southernmost neighbor, Guam, is heavily infested by the invasive brown tree snake and all cargo, planes, and vessels from Guam are rigorously inspected to ensure that they have no stowaway brown tree snake that could possibly breed in the CNMI. "The BTS canine is the most important tool we have. Dogs have a very profound sniffing ability so they are able to sniff the snakes out," Pangelinan said.

These new dogs will increase DFW's ability to perform and make sure that the BTS program is more viable and effective. There are currently six BTS dogs, one of which has yet to be trained.

"Whenever we have a new dog, they have to go to a training program. We collaborated with [U.S. Department of Agriculture] trainers and instructors to do the evaluation, to review our training, and to see if our guys have met the standard," Pangelinan said.

The brown tree snake is not venomous but does not have a local natural predator. Their entry would not only damage the economy but also CNMI biodiversity.

"Guam has over two million snakes, and the CNMI being close to Guam, there's a lot of impact that could happen here," Pangelinan explained. "The snakes will also eat all our birds and our geckos. Our birds eat the seeds and disperse them, and then become part of the ecosystem. The lizards balance our ecosystem by eating the other insects like mosquitoes and bugs. What will happen if they are gone? There would be more bugs, among other things. We would not have a balance."

DFW is appealing to the community to help protect the islands by reporting any sighting of brown tree snakes to 28-SNAKE (287-6253). (Iva Maurin)



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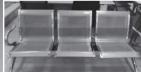






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MyPros board of directors member Kaitlyn Neisis-Mocanu and MYPros deputy director Chris Delos Santos mentor students from Marianas High School



Saipan Tribune correspondent Bea Cabrera mentors Lei Pangelinan from Southern High School

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO





MyPROS hosts 11th 'mentor for a meal'

By BEA CABRERA beecabbie@amail.com CORRESPONDENT

For the 11th year in a row, the Marianas Young Professionals hosted its signature "mentor for a meal" program, to give public high school students a chance to talk to professionals from different fields and ask a bunch of questions that would help them as they try to forge a career path.

Last week's event, held at the Marianas Creations restaurant on Micro Brach Road in Garapan, was attended by 10 high school students from Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and Southern High School.

MyPros executive director Gerard Van Gils said this project is one way of helping the youth become better community members and is an investment in the CNMI's youths. Mentoring them will equip them with tools to achieve what they envision as their future selves, he added.

"We are trying to grow tomorrow's young professionals. ...Our young people don't go from scholars to young professionals in a day but we are going to get them there as a community," he said. "Right now, while our Public School System is suffering so much, our young people and teachers are going through difficult times. 'Mentor for a meal' is one of the things that make the community come together and help the youth.'

One of the "mentors," Micah Page, who is a teacher and college adviser at Southern High School, pointed out that it is the students who do much of the work in school and this program will hopefully inspire the students to become more responsible about school and their lives."

The mentors that were present were MyPros board of directors member Kaitlyn Neisis-Mocanu, Bobby Cruz, and Jacqueline Que, MY-Pros deputy director Chris Delos Santos, JZ Group legal counsel Jordan Sundell, Saipan Tribune correspondent Bea Cabrera, Kagman High School principal Leila Staffler, and U.S. Department of Defense spokesman Brad Ruszala.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE















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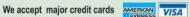








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Members of Lions Clubs International District 204 Region 2 pose with past district governor Emelio Uv at the installation of cabinet officers and committees chairpersons for the Lion Year 2019-2020 last Sept. 14, at the Chamorro Ballroom, Pacific Star Resort & Spa in Guam.

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Saipan Lions roar their way to Guam

Lions Clubs International District 204 Region 2 attended the 27th anniversary inauguration of district governor Fely Angel and the installation of cabinet officers and committee chairpersons for the Lion Year 2019-2020 at the Chamorro Ballroom, Pacific Star Resort & Spa in Guam last Sept. 14.

Guam Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio attended the inauguration. The Korean delegation was headed by Sumie Kuba and Malaysia's was headed by Dr. Datuk Naga.

The delegation from the Philippines was headed by George Ong Tan.

The Saipan delegation was led by Saturnino Banting, Annamae Adaza, Eden Mercado, Beth Mendiola, Ladyvir Canape, Arceli Lizama, and John Oliver Gonzales.

Emelio Uy was the overall onsclubs.org. (Iva Maurin)

Twenty-five members of the chairperson of the event. The event was hosted by the District Global Leadership Team.

> "We are glad that we were able to join the installation and meet and have a fellowship with members and guests. The committees did an awesome job" said Mario Mayuga.

> The Region 2 delegates also performed a dance-and-song number during the program. After the event, some members attended the Global Action Team luncheon training and fellowship at the same venue the next day.

> Next year's convention on March 7-8 will be hosted by Saipan.

> Those who want to join the Lions Clubs International may contact Adaza at 285-4388; Al Cabael at 483-4663, Argie Buensalido at 789-0218; or Bhiya Canadalla at 285-6899. For more information, visit li-

JKPL golf tournament fundraiser coming up

The biggest end-of-the year golf tournament is coming up!

The public is invited to participate in the 4th Annual ment Fundraiser on Nov. 10, 2019, at Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort's west course.

Joeten Motors has already signed on as a diamond sponsor of the golf tournament.

Joeten Motors is offering a 2019 Honda Civic Sport Hatchback as a sponsor of hole-in-one at Hole No. 13.

Game format is Low Gross and Double Peoria, 2 Person Scramble (Men and Women). Cost to participate is \$200 entry per team.

The tournament promises great hole-in-one prizes, cash prizes, raffle prizes.

All of the proceeds will Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu help support the Joeten-Public Library Golf Tourna- Kiyu Public Library and its branch library's resource and collection development, circulation materials, and library programs.

> Sponsorship and entry forms are available at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and the Lao Lao Bay Golf Course.

> Last day to register is Thursday, Nov. 7, 2019, at 5pm. Visit the Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary and www.cnmilib.org. Contact the library at 235-7315/6 for more information. (PR)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 **9**







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NOTICE TO

In accordance with Employment Rules and Regulations of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC), the CNMI Department of Labor (CNMI DOL) mandates compliance of the following for all eligible private sector employers. Failure or refusal to comply is cause for CNMI DOL to issue a Notice of Violation to the employer which may result in fines and other sanctions following a due process hearing in the Administrative Hearing Office.

1. Post Job Vacancy Announcement on CNMI DOL website

An employer who intends to employ a foreign national worker, transitional worker, or nonimmigrant alien on a full-time basis (under any new employment arrangement, any renewal of any existing employment arrangement, or any transfer) must post a Job Vacancy Announcement (JVA) on the CNMI DOL website at www.marianaslabor.net. NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(a). No waiver is available for the job vacancy announcement requirement. NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(e).

2. Submit Total Workforce Listing

Each business employer shall report quarterly, as of the last day of the calendar quarter, the number of employees, job classification, and the hourly wage of employees for whom wages were paid during the quarter. NMIAC § 80-20.1-505(b) (emphasis added). The Department requires employers to present this information in a document called "Total Workforce Listing," via email: documents@marianaslabor.net (Excel format).

The Total Workforce Listing is due each quarter:

1st Quarter (January - March)...... due on April 30 2nd Quarter (April - June)...... due on July 31 4th Quarter (October - December)...... due on January 31

Attention: The Total Workforce Listing for the 3rd Quarter 2019 is due on or before October 31, 2019. Online submissions may be emailed to documents@marianaslabor.net (in excel format) or delivered to the DOL Administrative Services Office, Building # 1356, Capitol Hill. Online submissions are preferable.

3. Adhere to Workforce Participation Minimum Percentage requirement

Any employer, unless exempt, who employs workers on a full-time basis must certify that 30% or more of its full-time employees are U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, and/or CNMI permanent residents. 3 CMC § 4525 and NMIAC § 80-20.1-210(c)(3). Failure to maintain a minimum percentage of 30% will result in a Notice of Violation filed against the employer.

4. Submit new or updated Workforce Plan

All employers who employ nonimmigrant alien workers, unless exempt, must submit a new or updated Workforce Plan every twelve months. NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(c). A workforce plan shall identify specific positions currently occupied by a foreign national worker and timetable for accomplishing the replacement of the foreign national worker with qualified U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents until the workforce participation objective is met. NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(b). The Workforce Plan form is available on the CNMI DOL website under Forms & Publications at www.marianaslabor.net.

Federal project investigator checks out NCBD

By MARC A. VENUS

marc_venus@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Federal project principal investigator Dr. Neal Palafox recently visited the Non-Communicable Disease Bureau of the Department of Public Health Services to look into its efforts as part of the Cancer of the Pacific islands Council, which includes the other U.S. Pacific jurisdictions of American Samoa, Guam, the CNMI, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

Palafox is a professor of Family Medicine and Community Health at the John A. Burns School of Medicine, and professor of Cancer Prevention and Control at the University of Hawaii Cancer Center. For the last 30 years, his work has been focused on reducing health disparities in the populations of Hawaii and the U.S. Pacific jurisdictions.

In his two-day visit last Aug. 13 to 14, Palafox met with Commonwealth Health Care Corp. leadership, the oncology team, NCDB, and other DPHS staff, and other CNMI health providers. He gave updates on the University of Hawaii's Pacific

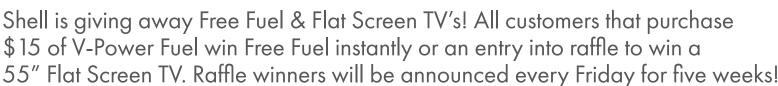
Cancer Programs' efforts in implementing the human papillomavirus self-test demonstration project in the Pacific region. The talks included the current Bristol Myers Squibb Foundationfunded cancer telehealth grant involving the CNMI.

Discussions to create partnerships to address the cancer burden locally and across the U.S. Pacific jurisdictions through federally funded programs were entertained with the DPHS director, DPHS medical director, and the NCDB.

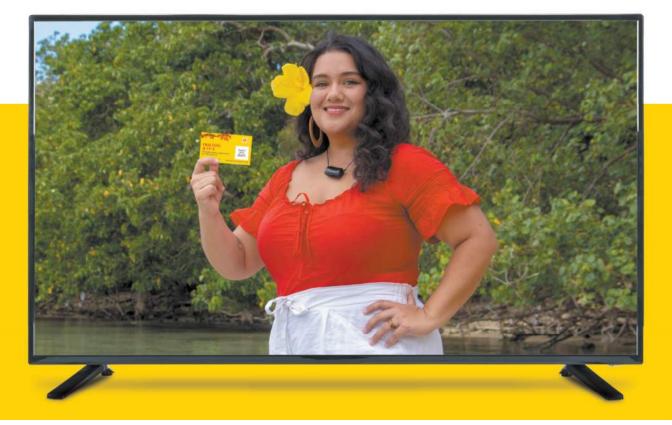
The CHCC and NCDB aim to increase communication amongst all stakeholders, continuous and comprehensive communication is essential in implementing relevant and appropriate interventions and projects geared toward addressing the social determinants of health in the CNMI.

Palafox had the opportunity to meet with Commonwealth Health Center oncologist Dr. Peter Brett. Medical Affairs director Dr. John Tudela, Dr. Joel Smith, and DPHS medical director Phuong Luu regarding cancer care and accessibility to diagnostic and treatment services in the region.

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TINIAN MAYOR'S OFFICE PHOTO U.S. flags are posted at the Tinian Veterans Memorial Park during

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Organizers, guests, and honorees of the We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes, a 9/11 commemoration, gather for a photo at the Joe G. Charfauros Veterans Memorial Park on Rota last week.

Rota and Tinian join 9/11 commemoration ceremony

The CNMI need not look far to see concrete examples of the heroism of first responders.

From the heroes of the Sept. 11, 2011 attacks, the same selfless acts 18 years after remain evident among the first responders of the CNMI.

"You see these sacrifices from our first responders, especially in the last three years when the CNMI has gone through several strong typhoons," said Tan Siu Lin Foundation vice chair and TanHoldings chief executive officer Jerry Tan.

Speaking at the We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes ceremony on Rota last week, Tan recalled that when the CNMI was devastated by Super Typhoon Yutu last year, "our firefighters, law enforcement personnel, and other first responders assisted families and left theirs. They, too, were greatly affected by these calamities, but, up to this day, you see them helping out in the rebuilding process."

The We Will Never Forget: Field of Heroes ceremony was originally conceived as a 9/11 commemoration but has since evolved to also honor veterans, law enforcement personnel, firefighters, and other first responders.

Last week, the TSL Foundation, the charitable arm of TanHoldings, teamed up with the Rota Mayor's Office and Hotel Valentino in holding the ceremony at the Joe G. Charfauros Veterans Memorial Park.

The ceremony included a moment of silence, a 21-gun salute, and the sounding of sirens.

"We are here not only to

commemorate 9/11, but also to recognize the work and commitment of our local heroes for saving our lives and protecting us. You make us, the people of the Commonwealth, proud of your service," Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig said.

Aubry Hocog, the Rota Mayor's Office special assistant for program and grants, closed out the ceremony last Sept. 17 with a heartfelt message to the honorees.

"Heroes are made by the paths they choose, not the powers that they are graced with. Thank you for choosing your path to serve, for looking after us. The path you chose is not easy," she said.

Meanwhile, the ceremony on Tinian was held last Sept. 18 at the Veterans Memorial Park, with Tan joining Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, other island leaders and Capt. Joseph A. Santos at the 9/11 commemoration.

"While 9/11 maybe one of the darkest days in our lives, it also brought out the best in our people, as brave ones risked their lives to save others," Aldan said.

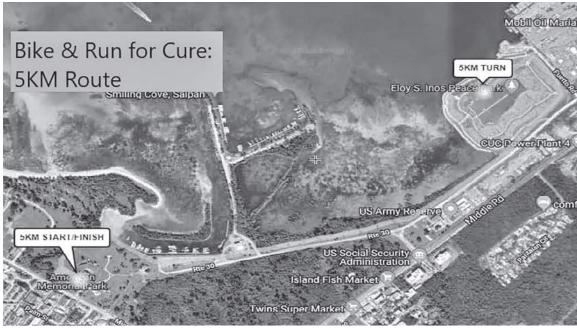
He also thanked the men and women who answer the call of duty, adding that while we are comfortable and safe at home, they are out somewhere, confronting danger and uncertainties.

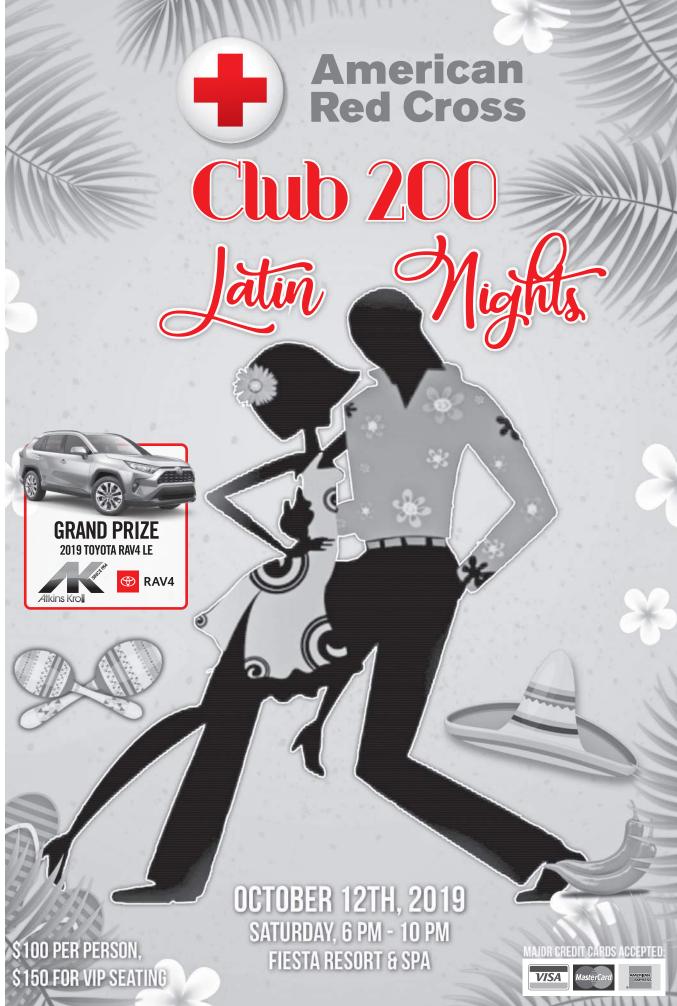
Santos reiterated the importance of remembering and honoring our heroes.

"Never forget. They did not run away, they ran into destructions and gave up their lives. If we do forget, their sacrifices will be wasted," the Army veteran said. (PR)









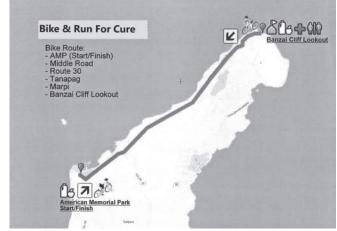
CCA's Bike & Run for Cure fundraiser tomorrow

As part of the celebration of Childhood and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, the Commonwealth Cancer Association will be holding a Bike & Run for Cure tomorrow, Sept. 28, Saturday, starting at 6am, at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

Funds raised will go toward CCA programs and operations. CCA gives direct client assistance, cancer survivor support, public education and cancer prevention advocacy.

In his capacity as acting governor, Victor B. Hocog, signed a proclamation last Aug. 23 that declared September as Childhood & Prostate Cancer Awareness Month.

For more information, call CCA 682-0050 or via email at ccamarianas@gmail. com. (PR)



OVR completes repairs to facility

By MARC A. VENUS

marc_venus@saipantribune.com REPORTER

REPORTER

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has completed repairing its Navy Hill offices. OVR currently hold two separate offices: one for counseling services and the other for administrative services.

OVR director Maryann Borja-Arriola said that OVR has been working on repairing the damage its facilities incurred in both Typhoon Soudelor in 2015 and Super Typhoon Yutu last year.

With the repair work now finished, Borja-Arriola invited members of different government offices to join them in celebrating last Friday at OVR.

The office was blessed and the guests had the opportunity to see the offices first-hand and see what services are offered by OVR. "With the completion of our repairs, we are able to continue to serve the people of the CNMI and seek employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities," she said.

OVR provides disability employment training on: disability awareness, sensitivity, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Acts, assistive technology assessments, information and referral to community programs, work experience training, and manpower services through on-the-job training. She also thanked Rep. Edmund Villagzomez (Ind-Saipan) for donating a filing cabinet for their counseling services, as some of the OVR's previous filing cabinets were breaking and have deteriorated over time.

OVR's mission is to promote the employability of individuals with disabilities to businesses in the CNMI, and show them that they are as capable as any able-bodied worker. For more information about OVR and its programs, contact OVR at (670) 322-6537/8.



contributed PHOTO for a group photo

Mount Carmel School's production team pose for a group photo after filming the latest "We Drank Our Tears" short stories. Five stories from the film series have been selected to screen at the Guam International Film Festival on Oct. 6, 2019.

Guam filmfest to premiere MCS film series on WWII

All six stories from the "We Drank Our Tears" series of Mount Carmel School have been chosen for a special screening at the 9th Annual Guam International Film Festival, or GIFF.

The film series will be featured in the festival's Made in the Marianas Showcase. The films will be shown on Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019, at the Guam Museum Indoor Theatre.

The showcase will include the stories of Carmen Acosta Sr. Antoineta Ada, Rosa Agulto, Francisco Babauta, Benjamin Abadilla, and Rafael Mafnas during World War II. The films were produced as part of the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the World War II Battles on Saipan.

All the films are adapted from *We Drank Our Tears*, a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation. In 1944, some of the final battles of World War II were waged on the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian; 933 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch civilians did not survive the battles.

All films in the series were directed by members and leaders of the school's Theatre Club. Francisco Babauta's and Benjamin Abadilla's stories were directed by Galvin Deleon Guerrero. Rafael Mafnas' story was directed by Justin Ocampo. Carmen Acosta's story was directed by William Blake Deleon Guerrero, Sr. Antoineta Ada's story was directed by

Aysia Adele Duenas Santos, and Rosa Agulto's story was directed by Quincy Chinen.

Telling Sr. Ada's story has personal meaning for Santos. "To have personally met her and now to have her story turned into a film is such an honor. Not many people know about our history and I'm very glad I was chosen to tell such a powerful story."

William Deleon Guerrero, a senior at Mount Carmel, is equally humbled to tell the story of Carmen Acosta. "I felt honored having the opportunity to tell a story, especially one from my island. It was definitely a new experience, but it was one that allowed me to express myself in ways I only dreamed of." He was also thankful to the cast and crew for their contributions to the film. "I'm glad to have my friends help me accomplish a lifelong dream."

While normally behind the camera or backstage as a manager, telling the Rosa Agulto's story via film was Chinen's directorial debut. "Directing was a new experience for me because I've always been behind the scenes, managing cast and crew, doing everything to aid the director." However, Chinen appreciated the opportunity to step up as a director. "It was a privilege to work with such a talented group of people to tell a story that, I believe, will teach future generations what families went through in the war."

For more information about the Guam International Film Festival, visit www. guamfilmfestival.org. (PR)



Opinion



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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

AP The Associated Press

Trump team must disclose full whistleblower complaint

s the House begins a formal impeachment inquiry of President Donald Trump, Congress must be given the full whistleblower complaint that triggered the dramatic turn of events.

The complaint initiated revelations that Trump was seeking politically advantageous information from a foreign government, during a July call with the president of Ukraine.

Just releasing a transcript of the call and a redacted version of the complaint, which the White House agreed to do Tuesday, is not enough. Congressional committees need the full complaint to see context and any additional concerns.

Weaseling out of this disclosure harms the administration, the public and the nation. If there was no wrongdoing, why the stonewalling and transcript feint?

Republicans should support Democrats seeking disclosure of the complaint to Congress. This demands patriotism not partisanship.

The Intelligence Community Inspector General reportedly found the whistleblower complaint to be of "urgent concern and credible."

On the call, Trump reportedly pushed the president of Ukraine for an investigation into Joe Biden and his son, which could provide political dirt for Trump's 2020 campaign. Simultaneously, the administration was holding up military aid that was promised to Ukraine, intentionally or not creating leverage. The hubris is stunning: Trump made this call right after Special Counsel Robert Mueller's testimony, so he was acutely aware it's illegal to seek foreign campaign support.

The gist of these shocking disclosures was confirmed this week by both Trump and his loquacious personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani. They torpedoed any arguments that the complaint is not credible or too sensitive to share in confidence with congressional committees.

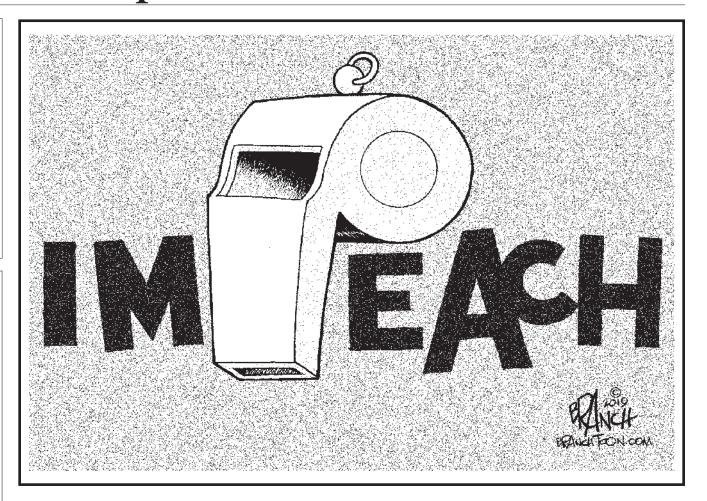
Nakedly political activity is afoot. In addition to seeking an investigation into the family of a leading Trump challenger in the 2020 election, Trump reportedly sought another investigation into whether Hillary Clinton received help from Ukraine in 2016.

Americans must resist the temptation to ignore the seriousness of what's happening and rush to take sides as the impeachment process begins. This is not just Trump being Trump or the left being the left.

The 2020 elections are a critical test for the United States to prove the strength and resilience of its democratic government. Having confirmed that Russia interfered in the 2016 election to Trump's benefit, the U.S. must do everything it can to prevent foreign influence from tainting the 2020 election as well. This is critically needed to demonstrate that its democracy is secure and its system of government continues to be self-healing.

Foreign influence on U.S. elections is illegal whether pro-

See TRUMP on Next Page



Death knell

ith the huge majority of the CNMI workforce being forcibly ejected from the country in four days (or 34 days), it obviously does not bode well for the CNMI economy. Just who does benefit? First, you have to look at what happens when an economy loses a major portion of its labor force. Typically, it implodes. Trained labor at a price point affordable to small, medium, and large businesses takes time to replace. In a country like us, where the local population is not large enough to supply the shortage, it means the small businesses fail first, then the medium businesses fail, and sometimes even the big business do so. In our case, we don't have any big multinational businesses operating here. Most of the small and medium ones will either close or move away without a sufficiently-sized and skilled labor force to continue their operation.

Who on earth would benefit if the economy implodes and collapses here in the CNMI? Who would like to step in and "save" the local economy? Who desperately wants massive, round-the-clock live- fire multi-force training on our next door neighbor's island of Tinian? Who wants to bomb Pagan until it is totally uninhabitable like FDM? Who writes the paychecks for all of these: DoD, DHS, USCIS, and CBP?

Since the day the U.S. feds took total control over immigration into and emigration out of the CNMI, it has been a forgone conclusion. Who controls entry and exit to a country controls its labor force. Who controls a labor force controls that country's economy. The U.S. has this little colony under its complete control and claims that we are self-governing as per the Covenant agreement are spurious and false. A poor people are a tractable people. Easy to manipulate. Easy to take advantage of. Willing to give up a lot to keep the family fed. People get poor pretty quick when their economy implodes and most of its businesses go out of business.

People look around and ask why is our economy going down? Why is our quality of life diminishing? Some blame the local officeholders currently in power, but when did these labor problems start? Have any of the local elected or appointed had control of immigration or the labor force on these islands since 2009 (10 years ago)? No, they have not. Who controls labor controls the economy. Look for those guys who pay the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Customs and Border Protection Division.

Apparently as many as 9,600 more or less workers will be out of status four days (or maybe 34 days) after you read this column. Some believe they will go back to the Philippines, Japan, China, Korea or Bangladesh and will shortly return to the CNMI after completing some paperwork. I have personally known

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE A. BATEMAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most

recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.

about a dozen workers who left Saipan to "pick up" their CW certificate. Two thirds of them are still there after more than a year. The quickest one returned here in about two months. Businesses cannot stay in business without workers for two months to a year waiting on their workforce to hopefully show up. Without a workforce, or a way to hire and train a new one quickly, within days or weeks, they will fold up and go out of business. Even if a short extension of 30 days is granted it comes too late as most workers have already booked and paid for their flight home with non-refundable, non-changeable tickets.

Wake up. They want our stuff. They want the precious land that belongs to the CNMI NMDs.

Why Korea?

The CNMI relies on five countries to supply most of our tourists: China, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan. This fiscal year, for the first time ever, China will be the No. 1 market, but only by a tiny margin. For the last six years, Korea has been the No. 1 market, producing the most tourists who visit here.

In contrast with the China market, which has grown very fast over the last few years, the Korea market has sustained slow, steady, sustainable growth year after year for decades. That means it will likely continue that growth. China has that ghost, called a visa waiver or a parole-in-place, that hangs over it. If that visa waiver is lost, which could literally happen overnight, the China market would dry up to a small percentage of its current size. China and Korea combined supply literally 90% of all the visitors, with all other countries combined only bringing in 10%. Japan, as an example, supplied less than 3% with only one month to go in fiscal year 2019.

Quickly you can see that the Korea market is vitally important to tourism in the CNMI. Tourism is our only significant source of income. Without it, and the workers needed to keep that industry going, our economy grinds to a halt. (See "death knell"

See DEATH on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity;

and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

On rainy days

he wind-driven rain crashes down the tin roof of the dirty kitchen outside. It sounded sentimental, though, bringing memories of the other old kitchen in CK a long time ago. It was where we cooked the family meal on traditional firewood stove daily. At daybreak (if isn't your turn to cook), the smoke from the kitchen signals that dawn has come.

We lived in a simple tin house built after the war. At least, we had a roof over our heads as we listened to the rhythm of the rain until the wee hours of the morning. The seasonal shift has its benefits, like cooler weather and our drinking water too!

On a more serious note, flood and drought would intensify in the Asia-Pacific region this year, according to a UN study. It means getting more than our share of storms up ahead. Japan has recently been battered by flood and fatal mudslides.

Money

Fund shortages that hit the local coffers annually is as perennial as grass. Accountants use their skills to the hilt, though the seesaw tidings of scarcity persist.

A 15% cut was recently imposed across the board as funds head south. The government has yet to pay NMC and other Cs their funds. Hope there's still money left to avoid deficit spending.

We could offer unsolicited recommendations but who knows the situation better than money managers themselves? I trust their work!

Though there's the constitutional requirement that 25 percent of total funds is earmarked for education, the work to fulfill it is derailed when funds head south equally quickly too.

It's all a matter of mature disposition, ensuring that basic services aren't compromised. Indeed, it's a difficult task given the complete opposite of obligations mounting annually while funds go the other direction. Perennial!

Poverty

When you've lived in poverty you get a down-to-earth experi-

Biden looks bad, too

By JAY AMBROSE TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

at least as far as I know, but he is guilty of a demeaning conflict of interest detrimental to the United States, and he could easily have walked away from it. This is not just another feckless gaffe, some of which, by the way, have more nearly had the appearance of well-practiced tall tales, but a narrative meaning that President Donald Trump is not the only one threatened by the Ukraine mess.

Biden may have to step down as a candidate for president, and if he doesn't, voters may show him the way to the door. Yes, that could mean Sen. Elizabeth Warren would be the Democratic nominee, an extreme, socialistically inspired enemy of capitalism and lover of major, liberty-devouring spending programs that would wreck our economy. Unlike Trump, her slogan should not be America first, but America third, as in becoming a Third World country. But maybe a Republican, who knows who, could beat her in the general election.

I know, I know that some are saying Biden is innocent and decent and should not be damaged by Trump talking to the president of Ukraine about him and his son. What Trump said was that the Ukrainian president should look into the firing of a national prosecutor who had probed a natural gas company that had the son, Hunter Biden, on its board. This big, wealthy, powerful company had long been seen as the doer of dirty deeds and its criminally suspect owner had had ties with a Russia-supporting Ukrainian president ousted by means of revolution.

Vice President Biden was the Obama's administration's point man in the Ukraine and told the government that the prosecutor was corrupt and that he must be fired or it would lose a billion-dollar loan promised by the United States. Ukraine is poor and has been fighting Russian separatists and the man was fired. The action may have been justified, but consider that this lawyerson had built his career on his daddy's influence, representing foreign and domestic companies dependent on the U.S. government's whims and deliberations, and was making \$50,000 a

ence of the hardship that comes with it. There's the persistent lack of food and other basic needs gift-wrapped in scarcity.

I've literally gone through this ordeal more than 50 years ago. It's a painful journey that tests resiliency while holding onto the last ounce of hope.

The hardest part wasn't that you're missing a certain need as much as the lack of it for the rest of your siblings. It's a painful experience we endured with humility, difficult it may have been.

It was at the bottom of the abyss of abject poverty where there are no answers, even in prayerful hopeful tomorrows. You take it in misty good night and call it a day.

But behind it all was His savings grace that eased hardship for the poorest in the community including ours. *Mit grasias*!

Those were literally the hard days of yesteryears. Had to face endless headwinds in that difficult journey. Ever stared at your empty plate wishing it were food? Done that too!

A lot of our elderly lost their jobs and so the next best thing was to begin subsistence living, anew. We cleared land, planted, while raising small livestock for maintenance like chicken, pigs, and goats. No easy task after school or from dawn to dusk on weekends.

The trail of hardship I left behind has turned golden paths of yesteryears. It is enshrined in memory lane for it was a part of my difficult and cherished journey of yesteryears.

Salaries

Income has been and still is the most difficult issue for employees here then and now. Nearly 15,000 are earning poverty income level wages and salaries. It's more than half the workforce here.

It requires formulating realistic economic plan. Are we up to the task or "not yet, already?" Unless we plan and carefully follow through recommended actions, we'd repeat the same failure time and again. Must do better than snooze at the wheel!

Term

I've heard the term "cultural" used loosely in recent conversations. When I warn kids about betel chewing they'd slam right

By JAY AMBROSE

Tribune News Service

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may email him at speaktojay@aol.com.



month as a director doing what? It is unclear because, as others have noted, he had no background in energy or anything else that would matter, just an interesting last name.

In his phone gab with the Ukrainian president, Trump never mentioned taking away American money meant to help in its military pursuits, mainly the training of soldiers, but he did delay its delivery without explanation. It still got there with no Ukrainian acquiescence in anything. Could it be that the Ukrainian president feared Biden more than Trump? After all, it was possible Trump would just last another year or less in office and that Biden could be the next president and that the last thing this Ukrainian official wanted was a President Biden on his case.

Joe Biden has pleaded innocent to a conflict of interest, but early on he knew what was going on because of newspaper reports, and even though he says he never talked to his son about the issue, his son has said he did. Hunter Biden has said he was a director of the company trying to help it out financially and legally, but it is inconceivable that he did not know he was compromising his father, just as it is equally inconceivable that his father did not know the situation might make the United States look corrupt, too, at least to some.

President Barack Obama is said to have been concerned about the son's since-abandoned job, and Joe Biden could surely have gone to Obama and said, at least on this matter, he did not want to be a point man, or possibly told his son to behave. It didn't happen and so you wonder why he decided to risk the worst when other, protective options were at hand.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



back, "It's cultural!" Since when is chancing fatal oral and esophageal cancer cultural?

But it's used as the single word answers all about culture that exists or doesn't exist just to get by. It's a good cover word, though, when you're not sure what's your culture by calling it "cultural." Did you get that, pal?

Creativity

Insufficient salaries simply show its prohibitive effects in building a safe and secure family home. Admirable, though, how folks have built a large restroom in the main structure that accommodates the family during typhoons. I call it creative survival!

TRUMP

From Page 14

vided from abroad, as Russia did in 2016, or solicited by an American—including the occupant of the White House.

Even worse is the appearance that the administration used the promise of military aid to apply pressure. That makes Trump's pursuit of an investigation look less like a request and more like a shakedown, using taxpayer dollars as the brass knuckles.

What actually happened may or may not be as bad as it sounds. Getting to the truth, and assuring the public that the 2020 election isn't already tainted, starts with disclosure of the whistle-blower complaint.

(c)2019 The Seattle Times

DEATH

From Page 14

segment above). Ours is a delicate economy, and remains viable only because of a delicate balance. Kick the props out from under one of our major supply countries and the whole thing collapses like a house of cards. A welfare check and a wait-inline for food stamps is not a very good alternative to a steady paycheck and a productive job with growth potential. But it can disappear quickly in an industry as delicate as tourism. It doesn't take much to make it crash.

If I were an emperor, we would be on a mad, desperate search for another symbiotic, employment-producing industry to add to the CNMI's income list. The former is pretty unlikely, thank goodness, but the new industry is very possible. We just need to reach out, find it and induce it to come here to the CNMI. But until then...

We need those Korean tourists like the breath of life right now, and those Chinese tourists too and the much smaller but still important Japanese, Taiwanese, Hong Kong and even the two2 guys who came in from Lithuania.

A new offshore marketing representative is about to start work to keep Korean tourists coming here. Welcome them and their efforts.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

- "Democracy is two wolves and a sheep deciding what to have for dinner."
 - -attributed to Benjamin Franklin
- "My favorite thing about South Korea is the people—they are so kind and helpful."
 - —Elana Meyers
 - "If you don't walk today, you must run tomorrow."
- —Korean proverb

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN **SATURDAY SUNDAY TODAY MONDAY TUESDAY** Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and Partly cloudy with isolated Partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. isolated thunderstorms **78º 78º** 880

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE KOSRAE

PICTURE TIME: 7:02 AM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019 Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180

A tropical disturbance is centered just east of the Marianas near 12N149E. Satellite and radar indicates scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are beginning to filter in this morning. Winds are from the northeast at around 10 knots and seas are 3 to 4 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESI	A	▲ ▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Yap	Mostly Sunny	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	88° / 82°

Auckland Partly Cloudy 61 Beijing Sunny 88 Hong Kong Sunny 88 Honolulu Showers 86 London Showers 63 Los Angeles Partly Cloudy 76	V°F ° / 54° 8° / 59° 8° / 79° 8° / 77° 8° / 55°
Beijing Sunny 88 Hong Kong Sunny 88 Honolulu Showers 86 London Showers 63 Los Angeles Partly Cloudy 76	3° / 59° 3° / 79° 5° / 77° 3° / 55°
Hong Kong Sunny 88 Honolulu Showers 86 London Showers 63 Los Angeles Partly Cloudy 76	8° / 79° 8° / 77° 8° / 55°
Honolulu Showers 86 London Showers 63 Los Angeles Partly Cloudy 76	8° / 77° 8° / 55°
London Showers 63 Los Angeles Partly Cloudy 76	3° / 55°
Los Angeles Partly Cloudy 76	
Manila Thunderstorm 90	s° / 65°
)° / 79°
Melbourne Cloudy 57	" / 45°
Miami Partly Cloudy 84	l° / 78°
New York Sunny 77	" / 64°
Osaka Thunderstorm 84	l° / 73°
Paris Partly Cloudy 70)° / 55°
Busan Thunderstorm 79	° / 70°
Rome Sunny 81	° / 59°
Salem Mostly Sunny 96	s° / 70°
San Francisco Partly Cloudy 65	5° / 54°
Seoul Partly Cloudy 81	°/61°
Tokyo Mostly Cloudy 81	° / 70°
Washington, DC Mostly Sunny 82	2° / 67°



Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone

■*11 on any IT&E cellular phone

■ Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIP	AN HARBOR TO	DAY FEET
12:12 AM	LOW TIDE	0.90
5:34 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.95
12:25 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.10
7:01 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.05

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET		
Today	6:06 AM	6:09 PM		
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM		
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM		
Monday	Monday 6:06 AM			
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:06 PM		

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:14 AM	5:08 PM	-
Saturday	5:16 AM	5:57 PM	-
Sunday	6:18 AM	6:44 PM	-
Monday	7:18 AM	7:31 PM	-
Tuesday	8:18 AM	8:18 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULF AS OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

	DEI	PARTU	RES		A	RRIVAL	.S
SAIPAN-	GUAM (GUM)		GUAM (GI	UM)-SA	IPAN	
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA1747:30am	8:07	'am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-	NARITA	(NRT)		NARITA (NRT)-S	AIPAN	
BC802	4:45pm	7:30pm	Sep 20 to 22	BC801	10:00am	2:40pm	Sep 20 to 22
SAIPAN-	BUSAN ((PUS)		BUSAN (P	us)-sa	IPAN	
7C3451 7C3451		6:30am 6:10am	4 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452 7C3452		2:10am+1 2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 3
SAIPAN-	SEOUL (ICN)		SEOUL (IC	:N)-SAI	PAN	
TW308 OZ626 OZ626 7C3403 7C3403 7C3403 7C3401 7C3401	2:20am 2:50am 4:45am 5:00am 5:00am 4:10pm	5:20am 6:00am 6:30am 8:35am 8:30am 8:50am 7:45pm 8:10pm	Daily 1 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 4 6 4, 7 1, 2, 3, 5, 6	7C3402 TW307 TW307 OZ625 OZ625 7C3404 7C3404	7:00pm 7:05pm 7:40pm 8:15pm 10:10pm	12:35am+1 1:10am+1 1:45am+1	
SAIPAN-	SHANGH	IAI (DVG	3)	SHANGHA	II (DVG)-SAIDAN	ı
3U8648		8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	-	4:30am+1	
SAIPAN-	HANGZH	IOU (HG	н)	HANGZHO	OU (HGI	1)-ςΔΙΡΔ	N
JD396		12:05pm	1	JD395		3:30pm	4
JD396		7:55pm	4	JD395		5:00am+1	•
SAIPAN-	GUANGZ	HOU (C	AN)	GUANGZH	IOU (CA	N)-SAIP	AN
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-	BEIJING	(PEK)		BEIJING (PEK)-S	AIPAN	
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-	MANILA	(MNL)		MANILA (MNL)-S	AIPAN	
OZ626/701 OZ626/701 UA117/183 UA117/183 UA117/193	2:50am 9:15am 9:15am	11:05am 11:05am 8:50pm 9:10pm 10:40pm	1 via ICN 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN 2, 5 via GUM 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625 OZ702/625 UA192/174 UA184/174 UA184/174	12:15pm 9:45pm 10:25pm	1:10am+1 1:45am+1 8:07am+1 8:07am+1 8:07am+1	7 via ICN 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICI 2, 5 via GUM-ROR 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-	HONG K	ONG (H	(G)	HONG KO	NG (HK	G)-SAIP	N
OZ626/721 OZ626/721 UO43 UO43 UA117/159	2:50am 5:35am 5:50am	11:40am 11:40am 8:25am 8:40am 9:50pm	1 via ICN 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN 1 3, 5, 7 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ722/625 OZ722/625 UO42 UO42 UA116/174	1:10pm 6:25pm 9:25pm	1:10am+1 1:45am+1 1:20am+1 4:20am+1 8:07am+1	7 via ICN 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICI 7 2, 4, 6 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT # 1301 1302 1303	TO ROTA DEPARTURE 7:30AM 11:30AM 4:00PM	ARRIVAL 8:00AM 12:00PM 4:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1203 1204 1205 1206 1207 1208 1209	9:00AM 10:00AM 11:00AM 12:00PM 1:00PM 2:00PM 3:00PM	9:15AM 10:15AM 11:15AM 12:15PM 1:15PM 2:15PM 3:15PM	Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily Daily
FLIGHT # 3101 3102 3103	DEPARTURE 8:15AM 1:45PM 4:45PM	ARRIVAL 8:45AM 2:15PM 5:15PM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily	1210 1211 1212	4:00PM 5:00PM 6:00PM	4:15PM 5:15PM 6:15PM	Daily Daily Daily
ROTA TO FLIGHT # 3401	DEPARTURE 12:15PM	ARRIVAL 12:45PM	FREQUENCY Daily	FLIGHT # 2102 2103 2104	DEPARTURE 7:30AM 8:30AM 9:30AM	ARRIVAL 7:45AM 8:45AM 9:45AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily Daily
GUAM T	O ROTA			2105 2106	10:30AM 11:30AM	10:45AM 11:45AM	Daily Daily
FLIGHT # 4301	DEPARTURE 1:00PM	ARRIVAL 1:30PM	FREQUENCY Daily	2107 2108 2109	12:30PM 1:30PM 2:30PM	12:45PM 1:45PM 2:45PM	Daily Daily Daily
SAIPAN	TO TINIAN			2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT # 1201 1202	DEPARTURE 7:00AM 8:00AM	ARRIVAL 7:15AM 8:15AM	FREQUENCY Daily Daily	2111 2112 2113	4:30PM 5:30PM 6:30PM	4:45PM 5:45PM 6:45PM	Daily Daily Daily

Tenorio sent on federal mission

HAGÅTÑA, Guam-Focused on managing Guam's dengue response efforts, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero has dispatched Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio to lead an aggressive Tenorio federal mission.



During the two-week mission, Tenorio will work to advance Guam's agenda on several federal issues. These include: the Guam military buildup, federal land return, the extension of Medicaid funds that is set to expire on Oct. 1, Guam decolonization, World War II claims, and the territory's H-2B labor shortage.

"My focus is on managing our response efforts right here at home. I can do that because I know Lt. Gov. Josh will represent Guam well during these important meetings and work sessions," Leon Guerrero said.

Additionally, and in recognition of a joint effort among the Office of the Governor, the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability, and the Global Island Partnership, Guam has been invited to participate in a high-level event at the United Nations Climate Week centered on the U.N.'s

2030 Initiative for Sustainable Development.

"Islands in the Pacific contribute the least to global warming but our neighbors are dealing with its harmful effects every day.

Armed with this knowledge and information, and as leaders of our island, the governor and I are taking proactive steps to combat climate change and support sustainable development on a global scale. That includes promoting the U.N.'s goals on sustainability," Tenorio said.

In advance of Tenorio's participation in climate change activities with the U.N., Leon Guerrero signed Executive Order 2019-23 creating the Guam Green Growth Working Group. The goal of the working group is to support a public-private partnership approach to solutions and programs consistent with the U.N.'s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

"Green initiatives do more than protect our environment, the technology and innovation

they inspire can expand our economy and create sustainable jobs," said Leon Guerrero. (PR)



A Family Friendly Event Part of **Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

2019 DAYOF

KID FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES RAFFLE PRIZES **MUSIC & DANCE PERFORMANCES GREAT FOOD & TREATS** FREE DVAM 2019 T-SHIRTS*

SATURDAY, OCT. 5 **11AM TO 4PM** GARAPAN FISHING BASE

For more information, call the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence at 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. (*while supplies last)





@ End Violence NMI





WE WILL NEVER FORGET:































Tan Siu Lin







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SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 **19**



Look for *Ocean Friendly* products at participating businesses and help save our reefs one purchase at a time.













REEF SAFE SUNSCREEN

Sunscreen washes off your body when you swim and shower and enters the marine environment. Common chemical sunscreen ingredients, such as oxybenzone and octinoxate, can kill coral and damage coral reefs. Look for coral reef friendly or reef safe sunscreen if you plan to swim, scuba dive, or snorkel near coral reefs.



































SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 **21**

Remember, you're not just putting fertilizers and pesticides on your yard or farm...

When you put fertilizers and pesticides on your farm, they don't all get taken up by the plants right away. Some of those chemicals get picked up by rainwater and carried to the ocean, killing our reefs and fish. Help protect our reefs. Use as few chemicals as possible to keep your farm or garden natural or choose from these Ocean Friendly products available at all Ace Hardware locations.



What does "ocean-friendly" mean?

Ocean-friendly is a selection of yard care (fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticide) brands that are less harmful to our marine environment.

How and where can I find ocean-friendly products?

Look for the logo and shelf-display materials. The ocean-friendly brands can be found along with the other products of the same type.

How were the products chosen?

Ocean-friendly brands were selected based on EPA guidelines for toxicity and environmental hazards and must pose the lowest level of risk. Many comply with USDA's organic standards as measured by OMRI (omri.org), the Organic Materials Review Institute. We also considered the products' mobility in soil those that have fewer active ingredients that can leach out of the root zone will contribute less to water pollution.

Where can I find more information?

Please visit our website at www.dcrm.gov.mp or email outreach@dcrm.gov.mp















Look for this logo to find a more Ocean Friendly version of your yard care products!

BRANDS HARDWARE

Recommended Fertilizer Brands

- Alaska Fish Fertilizer
- Grow Better
- Happy Frog
- White Farms Organic and All-Natural Plant Food
- Miracle Grow Shake and Feed Continuous Release
 All-Purpose Fertilizer
- Fox Farms
- Osmocote

Recommended Herbicide and Pesticide Brands

- Bayer Advanced
- Natria Ecosmart Organic
- Garden Safe
- Safer Brand
- Whitney Farms
- Worry Free Weed and Grass Killer

Business

Japan welcomes US trade pact, automakers urge more help

TOKYO (AP)— Japanese automakers on Thursday urged government officials to do more to support the key industry and their business after their government signed a trade deal with the U.S. that only kept auto tariffs unchanged.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Donald Trump, both attending the U.N. General Assembly in New York, signed a trade agreement covering agricultural, industrial

and digital trade.

Japanese auto industry has been a main U.S. target of blame, and industry officials were hoping to see auto tariffs eliminated, but Japan could only keep them at 2.5% and a U.S. promise of no more for now. Negotiations began last year after Trump complained about huge American trade deficit against Japan and threatened higher tariffs and other measures.

At a meeting with Japanese

trade minister and top officials hours after the signing, Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda urged government to do more for the auto industry, citing a harsh business environment. Toyoda also heads the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association.

"The auto industry already faces extremely difficult challenges amid rising Japanese yen, possible impact from the upcoming sales tax increase and other uncertainties," a

grim-faced Toyoda said in his opening remarks to the officials. "We do hope that the Japanese government understands the severe situation and provide us further support to help the auto industry to strengthen its competitiveness and grow as a strategic industry."

Trade Minister Isshu Sugawara and top ministry officials invited heads of automakers to a meeting in Tokyo, to gain their understanding.

Sugawara said the deal

would help assure free and fair trade between the nations.

"This pact would promote free and fair trade environment in the area of autos and auto parts between Japan and the United States, and we welcome that," he said.

Trump has sought a bilat-

eral agreement with Japan, the world's third-largest economy, since pulling out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal after he took office. Washington wants to reduce a chronic trade imbalance that totaled \$67.6 billion in 2018, according to U.S. figures.

Recent product safety recalls

First of two parts

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has issued the following product recalls:

WHIRLPOOL GLASS **COOKTOPS WITH TOUCH CONTROLS**

Hazard: The recalled cooktop surface elements can turn on by themselves, posing burn and fire hazards. Whirlpool Corporation has received 133 reports of incidents involving the cooktop surface elements turning on by themselves. Additionally, there have been reports of heat damage to nearby items and four reports of items catching on fire. Two minor burn injuries have also been reported.

Description: The recall includes cooktops with a glass cooking surface, touch controls, radiant, and downdraft radiant models sold under the Whirlpool, KitchenAid, and JennAir brand names between December 2016 through July 2019.

Remedy: Product replacement. Consumers should immediately contact Whirlpool to arrange for a free installation of a replacement cooktop. When not in use, turn the unit off at the circuit breaker. Do not leave flammable materials or empty cookware on or near the cooktop. Contact Whirlpool toll free at 888-900- 7897 from 8am to 8pm ET Monday through Friday, or visit online at www.repair. whirlpoolcorp.com or www. jennair.com and click on "Recall Information" at the bottom of the page for complete recall information.

DECATHLON USA ROCKY SCREWGATE CARBINERS

Hazard: Serious risk of death. Incorrect assembly can cause the carbiner to unlock while in use, posing a risk of serious injury or death to the user. Decathlon USA has not received any reports of injuries to date.

Description: The recall involves Rocky Screwgate aluminum and pear shaped carbiners with a small gate and screwgate. They were sold under the SIMOND brand in yellow (item

#1760147) and blue (item #1759997). The brand name is engraved on the side of the product. The item number was printed on the cardboard that was attached to the product. Carbiners are typically used by climbers as connectors or as extenders to anchor a climber.

Remedy: Full refund. Contact Decathlon toll free at 866-480-3565 from 9am to 7:30pm PT Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, or Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesdays, and from 9am to 6pm on Sunday. For more information, email customer.service@decathlon. com or visit www.decathlon. com and click on the Product Recalls section.

KICHLER LIGHTING (FAST TRACK RECALL)

Hazard: The light sockets can overheat, melt, or catch fire, posing a fire hazard. Kichler has received 84 consumer reports of burnt fixtures, wires or sockets, including three reports of fixture fires. No property damage or injuries have been reported.

Description: This recall involves Elan Shayla Mini Pendant Lights Models 83162, 83163, and 83164. They are chrome multi-light modern/contemporary clear glass pendant lights with one, three, or nine pendant lights. The recalled chrome and clear glass multi-light fixtures can each have their model numbers and date codes printed on stickers located on the inside of the ceiling canopy and on the product packaging. The product date codes are comprised of a 2-digit month and 2-digit year, for example 0513 (May 2013) through 0514 (May 2014).

Remedy: Replacement. Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled lighting fixtures and contact the store where they were purchased or Kichler directly. For more information, contact Kichler at 866-558-5706 from 8am until 4:30pm ET Monday through Friday or online at www.kichler.com and click on "Safety Information" at the bottom of the page. (To be continued)

8 Steps for Safe Sleep



Always place your baby to sleep on his/her back.



Never dress your baby too warmly for sleep; keep room temperature comfortable for an adult.



3 Dress your baby in a wearable blanket instead of loose blankets.



Do not bed share. Place your baby's crib near your bed.



Remove all soft bedding, bumpers and toys from your baby's sleep area. Use only a tight fitted sheet.



Breastfeed if possible. Offer a pacifier when putting baby to sleep. If breastfeeding, offer a pacifier after 1 month,.



💙 Visit your baby's pediatrician regularly and stay up-to-date on your baby's immunizations.



Don't smoke around your baby.

For more information about Safe Sleep for your baby, please call the Maternal and Child Health Bureau at 664-8701/02 or visit any of our social media outlets to get updates.







This project was supported by Grant X10MC31162 CFDA 93.870 from HRSA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of HRSA or HHS.







Nation

Acting intel boss to speak; Dems call complaint 'disturbing'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire is set to speak publicly for the first time about a secret whistleblower complaint involving President Donald Trump as House Democrats who have read the document say it is "deeply disturbing."

House Democrats who are now mulling Trump's impeachment are hoping that Maguire will explain why he withheld the intelligence community whistleblower's complaint from Congress for weeks. Maguire will then go behind closed doors to speak to the Senate intelligence panel.

There were signs that the document, now at the center of a firestorm about Trump's handling of Ukraine, could be made public as soon as Thursday. Shortly before midnight on Wednesday, Utah Rep. Chris Stewart, a GOP member of the House intelligence committee, tweeted:

whistleblower complaint has from a secure room been declassified. I encourage you all to read it."

He did not say when it might be released, and a spokesman for the panel did not return a request for comment. New York Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, a member of Democratic leadership, said Wednesday evening that he expects the complaint would be made public "sooner rather than later."

The document was made available to members of House and Senate intelligence committees Wednesday after Maguire had initially determined they couldn't see it. The complaint is at least in part related to a July phone call between Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy in which Trump prodded Zelenskiy to investigate Democratic political rival Joe Biden. The White House released a rough

would not divulge details of the classified document, but described it as disturbing and urgent. House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, Trump D-Calif., said it "ex-

posed serious wrongdoing" and "certainly provides information for the committee to follow up with others."



Rep. California Eric Swalwell told CNN that the whistleblower "laid out a lot of other documents and witnesses who were subjects in this matter." The

complaint showed the whistleblower learned details of the call from White House officials, according to one person familiar with the complaint who was granted anonymity credible document." to discuss it.

Another such person said the lawmakers did not learn the identity of the whistleblower.

A Democratic member of the panel, Illinois Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, said the whistleblower "lays out the situation very logically" and "is both acknowledging the things that he or she knows and doesn't know, which is a hallmark of a

Helping every baby sleep safer

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi — who on Tuesday fully endorsed an impeachment investigation in light of the Ukraine revelations — and Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer also viewed the complaint. Schumer said he is even "more worried" now than he was before reading it and "there are huge numbers of facts crying out for investigation."

transcript of that call Wednesday morning. "BREAKING NEWS: The House Democrats emerging Prosecutor: Man claiming insanity

knew that killing six was wrong

HOUSTON (AP)—A man who claims he was insane when he fatally shot six members of his ex-wife's family in their suburban Houston home, including four children, clearly understood he was doing wrong, and his actions were motivated by vengeance not mental illness, prosecutors told jurors at his capital murder trial Wednesday.

Ronald Lee Haskell had been scheming for months to carry out the "cold-blooded execution" of the Stay family in 2014, prosecutor Samantha Knecht said during closing arguments.

Haskell wanted to hurt anybody who had helped his exwife following their divorce and his anger drove him to create a meticulous plan to achieve that goal, authorities have said. He traveled from California to suburban Houston and stalked the family of his ex-wife, Melannie Lyon, for two days before launching his attack.

Knecht said Haskell's actions before and after the shootings demonstrate he was not insane, including wearing a FedEx uniform to disguise himself so he could gain entry to the Stay family's home. After the shooting, he reloaded his gun and headed to the homes of other Stay family members so he could complete his plan, she said. He was arrested before reaching any other homes.

"It's up to you all to look at him and say, 'No, you were not insane that day ... We are

going to hold you accountable," Knecht said.

Doug Durham, one of Haskell's attorneys, admitted that his client committed a terrible crime, but said Haskell should be found not guilty by reason of insanity because he was suffering from serious mental illness that impaired his ability to know right from wrong.

Neal Davis, Haskell's other attorney, told jurors medical records show that during the seven years before the killing, Haskell's mental state was in a steady decline.

"He tried to get help for years. He didn't want to be this way. He had no control," Davis said.

A forensic psychiatrist testified at trial that Haskell suffered in part from schizoaffective disorder, a condition characterized by hallucinations or delusions.

Prosecutor Lauren Bard said Wednesday that Haskell's actions showed he was "not a disorganized, psychotic individual. That is a man with a plan."

Haskell's claims of insanity and that he heard voices telling him to kill the Stay family were "just more lies and manipulation. It's just more blame shifting. It's what he's done his whole life."

Prosecution experts testified that Haskell had faked his symptoms.

"This was vengeance and it was not a serious mental illness," Bard said.

Safe Sleep Education for Your



• Remove all loose bedding, stuffed animals,

Always place your grandbaby on their back

• Your grandbaby should never be placed to sleep or sleep with you on an adult bed, couch, or chair.

 Don't let anyone smoke around your grandbaby.

 Dress your grandbaby in light sleep clothing comfortable.

For more information about Safe Sleep, please contact the Maternal and Child Health Bureau at 664-8701 or email us at mchbcnmi@gmail.com or visit any of our Social Media outlets for updates.





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ASIAN BRIEFS

Authorities begin earthquake relief efforts in Pakistan

MIRPUR, Pakistan (AP)— Authorities began distributing tents, food and water among thousands of earthquake victims in Pakistan-held Kashmir on Wednesday, as the death toll from a powerful 5.8 magnitude temblor that rocked a large swath of the country's northeast a day earlier jumped to 37, officials said. Kashmir bore the brunt of Tuesday's quake in which hundreds of other people were injured. One person was killed in Jehlum, a city in northeastern Punjab province. Fearing aftershocks, many spent the night in the open in the hardest hit areas in Mirpur, a district in Pakistanheld Kashmir where hundreds of homes and buildings were damaged, affecting thousands in the city of some 5 million residents. Authorities said rescue work in quake-hit areas was completed and authorities were still assessing damages. According to a military statement, army chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa on Wednesday visited quakeaffected areas in Kashmir. Earlier, under cloudy skies, some residents complained they had not received any aid 24 hours after the quake rattled the region and some were seen by an Associated Press reporter picking through ruined buildings. Others sat in shock as relatives and a small number of volunteers provided small amounts of food.

7 dead, 14 rescued as dragon boat capsizes in Philippines

KALIBO, **Philippines** (AP)— The Philippines coast guard said seven rowers drowned and 14 others were rescued when their dragon boat overturned Wednesday after being lashed by strong waves during a practice run off a popular resort island. Coast guard spokesman Armand Balilo said the accident happened off Boracay island in the central Philippines' Aklan province where a local dragon boat team was practicing ahead of a rowing competition. Survivors of the accident, including a Chinese and a Russian, were brought by coast guard personnel and authorities to a hospital, Balilo

said. The boat capsized less than half a kilometer (a third of a mile) from the nearest beach. Friends, supporters and fellow rowers expressed shock and offered prayers for the sudden deaths in the team's Facebook account. Dragon boat rowing using Chinese-style canoes adorned with dragon designs and manned by a team of paddlers and a drum beater on board have long been popular in the Philippines, with teams competing in domestic and Asian competitions. There was no storm battering the region and government forecasters said light to moderate winds were expected Wednesday with generally calm seas, but weather in the region has been known to suddenly shift. Last month, 31 people died when their two ferries capsized in the Iloilo Strait after being suddenly buffeted by fierce waves and winds off Guimaras and Iloilo provinces, not far from Boracay.

Earthquake shakes eastern Indonesia. damage being evaluated

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—

A strong earthquake in eastern Indonesia cracked a bridge and a university building Thursday, while aftershocks sent people streaming outdoors as further damage was being assessed. The magnitude 6.5 quake was centered 37 kilometers (23 miles) northeast of Ambon, the capital of Maluku province, at a depth of 29 kilometers (18 miles), the U.S. Geological Survey said. Rahmat Triyono, the head of Indonesia's earthquake and tsunami center, said the inland earthquake did not have the potential to cause a tsunami, but witnesses told television stations that people along coastal areas ran to higher ground in fear one might occur. Television footage showed hundreds of people gathered outdoors as aftershocks rocked the Maluku island chain where the quake was mostly strongly felt. "The temblor was so strong, causing us poured into the streets," said Musa, an Ambon resident who uses a single name. He said there were no damages or injuries in his neighborhood, but he said people on social media chatted

about damage elsewhere in the city. The national disaster mitigation agency said authorities are still gathering information about damage and injuries at several affected areas. It said the quake had caused cracks in a main bridge in Ambon. and pictures released by the agency showed minor damage at Pattimura University in the city. Indonesia, home to more than 260 million people, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions due to its location along the "Ring of Fire," the string of seismic faults around the Pacific Ocean. A powerful Indian Ocean quake and tsunami in 2004 killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Indonesia.

India arrests woman who accused politician of sexual assault

NEW DELHI (AP)— A 23-year-old law student who accused a leader of India's governing party of sexual assault was arrested Wednesday on charges of extortion, police said. Naveen Arora, a police officer handling the case,

said the woman is accused of demanding nearly \$700,000 from the lawmaker, Chinmayanand, who uses one name, and "was arrested from her residence and will be produced before a court." In August, the student accused Chinmayanand, a Bharatiya Janata Party leader and president of the college where she studies, of sexual assault, harassment and intimidation. She first mentioned his alleged harassment in a video clip posted on social media last month. His lawyer has denied the allegations. Chinmayanand, who was was arrested on Sept. 20, has been shifted from a jail to a hospital in Lucknow, the capital of the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, where he is being treated for cardiac problems. The 72-year-old is a former minister from Uttar Pradesh and had previously faced charges in a rape case filed in 2011. Those charges were withdrawn in 2017. The law student had said earlier that the case of extortion against her had been slapped to weaken her case against Chinmayanand.

READY FOR OCCUPANCY: 2-STORY COMMERCIAL BLDG NEAR BANK OF SAIPAN IN CHALAN KANDA

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Northern Marianas College

Procurement & Property Management Office P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.

Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6804 E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu, Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS **NMC IFB 19-006**

NMC TEMPORARY BUILDING REPAIR PROJECT

Northern Marianas College is soliciting sealed bids for the Temporary Repair And Repurposing Project, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O-1 commencing Friday, September 27, 2019, between the hours of 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Bid Submissions are due no later than 2:00 P.m., October 11, 2019, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. In accordance with Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is available to local businesses for this procurement.

For Bidders located outside of the CNMI: May request a copy of the IFB by email to Anita Camacho (anita.camacho@marianas.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The College reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College.

All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

Anita Camacho Procurement & Property Manager

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges



Northern Marianas College

Procurement & Property Management Office P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A. Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6804

E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING DESIGN, FACILITIES MASTER PLANNING, AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

NMC RQS 19-001

Northern Marianas College (NMC) is soliciting for interested firms "Qualifications Statement's" for Architectural/Engineering services. The Statements of Qualification is due not later than 10:00am on September 27, 2019, Procurement & Property Management Office, Bldg O, As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

The requests for "Statement of Qualification (RQS)" Packet are available at NMC, Procurement Office commencing Monday at 10:00am, August 26, 2019. No fee is required for obtaining the RQS packets.

Pre-submittal conference is scheduled for Friday, 10:00am on September 13, 2019 at NMC Conference Room, Building P.

This Request for Statement of Qualification under Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available for this procurement. Interested firms/individuals located outside of the CNMI may request for the RQS packet by e-mail address to Anita Camacho at email anita.camacho@marianas.edu.

NMC reserves the right to reject any or all statement of professional qualification for any reason if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the

/s/ Anita Camacho Procurement Management Office

A Land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
ADDENDUM RFP19-CHCC/CGC-SOC-023

NEW SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 28, 2019 TIME: 10:00 AM "WRAPAROUND ASSESSMENT-COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE

CORPORATION-COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER/SYSTEMS OF CARE INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE To ${
m extbf{REQUEST}}$ for ${
m extbf{PROPOSALS}}$ tab on the Left navigation bar. Click on the URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO BEJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S





ITB19-CHCC/ELC-003

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 18, 2019

TIME: 10:00 AM

<u> "Lease vehicle - commonwealth healthcare corporation</u> EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY (ELC)"]

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** tab on the left navigation bar. Click on the URL for this RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED T ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL. IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER /S/ CORAZON P. ADA

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 **25**

World

Iran leader warns region 'on the edge of collapse'

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Iran's president used the world's stage on Wednesday to warn that security in the Persian Gulf could unravel with a "single blunder" and its fragile peace be guaranteed only by the region's countries, not through U.S. intervention or Washington's "merciless economic terrorism."

President Hassan Rouhani accused the United States of engaging in "international piracy" against his country by re-imposing economic sanctions after Washington withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Tehran "will never negotiate with an enemy that seeks to make Iran surrender with the weapon of poverty," Rouhani said in his highly anticipated speech at the U.N. General Assembly. "Stop the sanctions so as to open the way for the start of negotiations."

His words came shortly after U.S. Secretary of State

Mike Pompeo announced additional U.S. sanctions targeting Iran's ability to sell its oil, this time imposing penalties on six Chinese companies and their chief executives for continuing to transport Iranian crude.

"We're telling China and all nations, know that we will sanction every violation of sanctionable activity," Pompeo said at an event for United Against a Nuclear Iran, a lobby group opposed to the nuclear deal, a few blocks from where Rouhani was speaking at the United Nations' headquarters.

Tensions in the Middle East have risen as the nuclear deal unravels under U.S. pressure and Iran turns back to expanding its nuclear enrichment program, despite previous compliance with it for up to a year after Trump's withdrawal from the accord.

The escalating crisis has raised concerns of a direct conflict— a scenario that all

parties, including bitter rivals Iran and Saudi Arabia, have stressed they want to avoid. The United States, meanwhile, has sent military reinforcements and heightened its security presence around the Persian Gulf.

In his U.N. speech on Tuesday, Trump described Iran as "one of the greatest threats" to the planet.

Rouhani said U.S. wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria had failed, with Washington "unable to resolve the more sophisticated issues" plaguing the Middle East.

"Security shall not be supplied with American weapons and intervention," he said. "Security cannot be purchased or supplied by foreign governments."

While Rouhani's manner was measured, his words were ominous.

"Our region is on the edge of collapse, as a single blunder can fuel a big fire," he said, adding that it will become secure only when U.S. troops withdraw.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for Single Audit of financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. NMPASI is designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's rights, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than December 14, 2019. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

- 1. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
- 2. OMB Circular A-133; and
- 3. Compliance with the general Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program.

Award will be based on specific factor such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than December 21, 2019, and a final audit report shall be completed by March 15, 2020. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Gualo Rai. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. James Rayphand, Executive Director at (670) 235-7273/4 (voice) or email at jraypahnd@nmpasi.org.

An unrepentant Boris Johnson faces raucous UK Parliament

LONDON (AP)— An unrepentant Prime Minister Boris Johnson brushed off cries of "Resign!" and dared his foes to try to topple him Wednesday at a raucous session of Parliament, a day after Britain's highest court ruled he acted illegally in suspending the body ahead of the Brexit deadline.

Amid shouts, angry gestures and repeated cries of "Order!" in the House of Commons, Johnson emphatically defended his intention to withdraw Britain from the European Union on Oct. 31, with or without a separation agreement with the EU.

"I say it is time to get Brexit done," he declared, accusing his opponents of trying to frustrate the will of the people, who in 2016 voted 52% to 48% to leave the 28-nation bloc.

Johnson was greeted with applause from his own Conservative lawmakers and jeers from the opposition side as he arrived in the Commons, hours after cutting short a trip to the United Nations in New York.

He flew home early after Britain's Supreme Court unanimously ruled Tuesday that his attempt to suspend Parliament for five weeks had the effect of stymieing its scrutiny of the government over Brexit. The court declared the suspension void.

The leader of the main opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, said the prime minister is not fit to govern and "should have done the honorable thing and resigned" after the ruling. He said Johnson "thinks he is above the law" and has shown "no shred of remorse or humility."

"Have you no shame, prime minister?" said Ian Blackford, the Scottish National Party's leader in Parliament. Labour lawmaker Jess Phillips urged Johnson "to act with some humility and contrition."

Members of Parliament accused him of showing disrespect for the rule of law and deceiving Queen Elizabeth II when he asked for her permission to prorogue, or suspend, Parliament. Over and over, they called on him to say he was sorry.

But Johnson ignored calls to step down or apologize, showing no sign of contrition during the more than three-hour question-and-answer session. He said he disagreed with the Supreme Court's 11-0 ruling, and he repeatedly refused to rule out the possibility of suspending Parliament again.

The prime minister said a new election is the only way to unblock Britain's "paralyzed Parliament."

"I think the people of this country have had enough of it. This Parliament must either stand aside and let this government get Brexit done or bring a vote of confidence and finally face the day of reckoning with the voters," he said.



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT





NOTICE OF APPLICATION As of September 27, 2019

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	ТҮРЕ	STATUS
1.	Marianas Visitors Authority	09/05/2019 RSm-2019-0905	Konquer Sports Event	Rota	Shoreline	Approved* 09/12/2019
2.	IMarianas, LLC	09/05/2019 SLR-2019-X-061	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/Instruction	Grotto, Lau Lau Bay, & Obyan Beach	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 09/19/2019
3.	Yu Lu	09/05/2019 SPI-2019-X-062	Soil Investigation	Puerto Rico	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 09/23/2019
4.	Pacific Incorporated dba Ocean Star	09/20/2019 SPI-2019-X-064	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 09/25/2019
5.	Department of Public Works	09/11/2019 SW-2019-X-063	Kannat Tabla Road Flood Control & Drainage Improvement	Kannat Tabla, Saipan	Wetlands	Approved* 09/13/2019
6	Robert Bracken	09/19/2019 SPI-2017-X-001 Amendment 2019-1	3-Story Apartment and Commercial Building	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
7.	CAP, LLC	09/26/2019 SS-2019-X-065	Renovation of Commercial Space and Parking Lot	Oleai, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
8.	CAP, LLC	09/26/2019 SMS-2019-X-066	Transfer of Interest: CAP, LLC as New Owner of CAP Commercial Building (former Hakubotan Saipan Building)	Oleai, Saipan	Major Siting-Exisitng	Under Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of applications. The list reflects recently received parmit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an estariok (*)

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Science & Technology

Facial recognition arrives at airports

By KYLE ARNOLD

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

The kind of face-scanning technology seen in science fiction films is now in use at airports across the country, with a goal of increasing security and saving time for travelers.

While U.S. customs authorities want the tracking technology to log passengers entering and leaving the country, airlines and hardware companies are readying for broader use everything from checking bags to checking into a hotel.

Privacy advocates worry that the technology could become a data-tracking nightmare for the public.

"The technology is moving faster than the public awareness," said Jason Kelly, a strategist with the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a digital privacy group. "Because there are no laws right now, government agencies are just hoping they can start using it before rules can be made."

Today, face scanning is mostly being used in airports by Customs and Border Patrol under a mandate from laws passed after the Sept. 11, 2001. terrorist attacks. That put airports at the forefront of earning public trust for the technology.

It took 15 years after lawmakers passed a law requiring face-scanning technology for it to become reliable enough to use in public security applications, said Dan Tanciar, CBP's deputy executive director of planning, program analysis and evaluation for the program.

The agency wants the "Biometric Exit" ready to screen 97% of all passengers leaving the U.S. by 2022.

Facial recognition is progressing so fast that Amazon is testing it with police departments to detect faces in crowds.



NEC Corporation of America senior manager of marketing communications John Wise demonstrates how NeoFace Express scans your face and allows a passenger to pass through airport security at their Irving, Texas offices, Friday, Sept. 20, 2019. The facial recognition system is built for the airline industry.

TOM FOX/THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

How it works

In airports, facial recognition works by matching photos from passports and other identification against pictures taken live at the gate. The process takes a few seconds because it only has to match the person at the gate against others on the plane, not against millions of individuals.

Tanciar said the match rate percentage is "in the high 90s" and improving quickly. The technology can be more reliable than human identification because it tracks facial geometry, the space between eyes, noses, lips and other cues.

People who aren't matched by the technology are screened with a passport.

"Generally speaking, most travelers are in favor of this," he said. "They are happy to do it from a security perspective."

About 65% of passengers are willing to give up biometric information like facial scans if it means faster lines at airports, according to a survey by the International Air Transport Association, a trade group for the airline industry.

Passengers also have the option to turn down face scans and present boarding passes and passports.

Tanciar said facial recognition has caught 180 people using travel documents not issued to them at land crossings on the Southwest border.

Although the mandate to start using facial recognition is coming from the government, airports and airlines buy and run the technology.

Delta Air Lines, based in Atlanta, has been the most aggressive with facial recognition, using it in five airports. At Hartfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, international passengers who sign up for face scanning can use it to check bags, go through TSA security lines and board international flights.

Delta is also considering it for domestic travel, said Gareth Joyce, the company's senior vice president of customer experience.

"For us, it's about convenience and making the job easier," he said. "If our employees at the gate can interact with customers instead of checking identification, that's better for everyone."

In Irving, the U.S. headquarters of technology company NEC Corp. has a demonstration area that shows the wide uses of facial recognition, from boarding airplanes and dropping off luggage to TV screens that identify people at hotels and order food at

Beyond airports, car rental companies and hotels could start using facial recognition to skip the process of checking identification, said Benji Hutchins, NEC's vice president of federal operations.

Caliburger, the company that uses robots to flip burgers, lets customers pay using facial recognition at restaurants in California. BurgerFi is letting customers sign up for facial recognition to remember frequent orders.

mostly because of the mil-Hutchins said. Smart TV confused by frequency shift

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER

But airports are where

most of the attention is,

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-

0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

lions in research dollars paid

by the federal government,

: I have a Sony Bravia smart TV that receives over-the-air broadcasts, and is connected to the internet via Wi-Fi. Recently a local TV station (KSTC, aka "45TV") shut down briefly to install new equipment, and now my TV's program guide shows "no information available" for all of their subchannels. I've tried "rescanning" to make sure I receive all local channels, and resetting the TV (turning it off and unplugging it), but nothing works. What's wrong and what can I do?

A: Your smart TV, which is a computer, needs some software changes to accommodate changes in broadcasting.

Several TV stations across the country (including KSTC) are changing their signals to comply with the Federal Communications Commission's desire to free up frequencies for wireless internet and other uses. That can cause problems for people who receive over-the-air TV signals. Consumers are frequently told that they can solve the issue by having their TVs "rescan" for available channels, but that may not be enough for some smart TVs.

Why? Smart TV program guides have three sources: the TV station, the station's outside vendor that provides program information, and the TV software that displays the guide. If a TV station changes both its frequency and its channel number, it affects both the outside program information vendor and the TV software provider. But even if a station changes only its frequency and keeps the same channel number (as KSTC did), the TV software (in your case, the "Rovi On Screen Guide") may still need to be updated.

Because you have already rescanned for channels, the next step is to change the source from which your TV program guide gets its information (see tinyurl.com/y5tza2bq). If that doesn't work, try updating all the software on your Sony TV, either directly through the internet-connected TV or indirectly via a computer flash drive (see tinyurl.com/yyep5qhd).

Q: I'm planning to move to Windows 10 this winter because Windows 7 won't get security updates after Jan. 14. My biggest concern has been that some of my older programs won't work on Windows 10. But now I have a new problem: Comcast is requiring that, by the end of September, all outgoing e-mail be encrypted. I'm not sure that my Outlook 2003 program can do that. I'm also not sure that I want to buy a newer version of Outlook just before moving to Windows 10. What do you suggest?

A: Fortunately, Outlook 2003 is capable of encrypting your outgoing e-mail (see tinyurl.com/y5w8svja), so you won't have to buy a new version of Outlook.

Unfortunately, Microsoft stopped providing security updates for Outlook 2003 in 2014, so using it today is risky.

A better solution would be to make the shift to Windows 10 now. You can avoid the risk of using Outlook 2003 by switching to the "Mail app" that is included with Windows 10 (it can handle encryption). In addition, you won't have to worry about your other old programs being obsolete. They can run using Windows 10's "compatibility mode" (see tinyurl.com/y6t67saf), in which the operating system imitates earlier versions of Windows.

Coming soon: Alexa in your ear and on your finger

zon wants Alexa everywhere.

The online shopping giant said Wednesday that it will soon start selling wireless earbuds, finger rings and prescription eyeglasses with its Alexa voice assistant built in.

The goal: Get Alexa outside the home and wherever customers are.

"You can have Alexa with you 24/7," said Werner Goertz, a personal technology analyst at Gartner.

It also launched its first celebrity voice for Alexa: actor

Alexa users can now ask Jackson to sing them happy birthday or tell them the weather. There will be a "clean" version for those who don't want to hear Jackson curse. Amazon said other celebrity voices will be added next year.

While Amazon has succeeded in getting people to buy its voice-activated Echo speakers for their living rooms or kitchen counters, it hasn't found that same success outside the home.

Rivals Apple and Google

and other devices that have their voice assistants built in. But Amazon's smartphone failed to catch on and was discontinued several years ago.

With the Echo Buds, which cost \$130, users can order an Uber ride or find the nearest coffee shop as they stroll down the street. And later this year, Whole Foods shoppers wearing the black buds can ask Alexa what aisle they can find canned tomatoes or other groceries.

Its Echo Frames eyeglass-

NEW YORK (AP)— Ama- Samuel L. Jackson. For \$4.99, have smartphones, watches es and Echo Loop ring can do similar tasks, but both have a button that needs to be pressed before speaking to Alexa. For now, Amazon said it will sell a limited number of the glasses and rings to those invited to buy them and provide feedback on improving them.

The company also unveiled several other products Wednesday. Among them: a \$30 multi-colored lamp that pairs with Alexa and a \$250 voice-controlled oven that can warm, cook or air fry food.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 **27**

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Woman runs own half marathon after mix-up with UK race

WORCESTER, Mass.

(AP)— A Massachusetts woman thought she was signing up to run a half marathon near her home, not across the Atlantic Ocean. Sheila Pereira learned too late that the Worcester City Half Marathon was actually being held in Worcester, England, and not Worcester, Massachusetts, on Sept. 15. She decided to run 13 miles that day anyway, only on this side of the pond. The Boston Globe reports Pereira sent the English race organizers a picture of her route from Worcester to Shrewsbury. The 42-year-old runner's fitness app showed she completed her own half marathon in 2 hours, 5 minutes. After Pereira explained the mix-up, the Worcester City Half Marathon sent along a medal, a shirt and encouragement to travel the 3,000 miles to participate in person in next year's race.

Truck stop camel prescribed antibiotics after woman bites it

GROSSE TETE, La. (AP)— A veterinarian has prescribed antibiotics to a camel owned by a Louisiana truck stop petting zoo after a woman bit the 600-pound (272-kilogram) animal to free herself from under its weight. Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office documents obtained by The Advocate on Monday accuse Florida couple Gloria and Edmond Lancaster of throwing treats for their unleashed dog into Caspar the camel's enclosure at Tiger Truck Stop. The couple told deputies the camel attacked the dog, but the sheriff's office said the couple had provoked the animal before it sat on Gloria Lancaster. She'd crawled under barbed wire to retrieve her pet. Gloria Lancaster told officers she had to bite the camel to free herself. Truck stop manager Pamela Bossier said a veterinarian prescribed Caspar antibiotics as a precaution.

Health care company sends woman over 500 letters in 5 days WINDHAM, Maine (AP)—

A Maine woman says she received more than 500 letters from UnitedHealthcare in five days. The letters were sent to Stephanie Lay's 19-year-old son Bryce in Windham, but were addressed to Maine's Department of Health and Human Services—in Cincinnati, Ohio. WCSH-TV reports most of the letters said the company was denying a payment of \$54. Some say \$0. The claims go back to 2016. Lay began

receiving the letters Thursday. Lay first thought it was a joke. She says she's spent countless hours trying to figure out how this happened. Lay says she was especially amused by a line written at the bottom of every single one of the letters that says, "Go Paperless!" A spokeswoman for United-Healthcare says the company is looking into the issue.

Egg roll: Over 136K eggs fall off semitrailer onto roadway

HEGINS, Pa. (AP)—Police say more than 136,000 eggs splattered on a road when they shifted and fell out of a tractor-trailer driving through Pennsylvania. The Republican Herald reports 11,340 dozen eggs and 2,260 gallons of egg product were ruined when a 66-year-old driver lost control of the rig Tuesday. Hegins Township police say Miles had just picked the eggs up at Carl Faus Farm and was on his way to Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania. Police say Miles was driving north on Route 125 uphill. As he approached the Route 25 intersection, the load shifted causing the eggs and egg products to fall and roll down the hill. Miles reportedly did not realize the eggs had fallen and continued his drive. A section of Route 125 was closed for several hours after the incident. An investigation into the unsecured load is ongoing.

Dozens of dead cats found in NY home after eviction MONTGOMERY, N.Y.

(AP)—Authorities are investigating the deaths of dozens of cats found at an upstate New York home after the former owner was evicted. The Times Herald-Record reports that the remains of 89 cats had been removed from the house in Montgomery as of midday Friday. Montgomery town Police Chief Arnold "Butch" Amthor says conditions in the house were "horrific." Boxes containing more dead cats were found in an open grave behind the house. A label on one box read, "RIP Zippy you were a good little girl." The cat remains were discovered when a work crew arrived to clear out the house. Animal Control Officer Anne Ilkiw says about eight cats survived. Authorities say animal cruelty charges may be filed by the Orange County

Colorado driver puts injured bobcat in car next to child

district attorney's office.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Officials have

a warning after a Colorado Springs woman put an injured bobcat in her car, inches away from where her child was in a safety seat: Don't pick up wildlife. Colorado Parks and Wildlife spokesman Bill Vogrin says the woman spotted the injured adult male cat while driving, wrapped it in a blanket and put it in the back of her SUV on Wednesday. A boy, about 3 years old, was in the back seat. Agency officials told her to get her boy and herself out of the vehicle when she called to ask what to do. Vogrin says District Wildlife Manager Sarah Watson responded to the call, opened a door and slammed it shut when she spotted the 20-pound (9-kilogram) cat. Watson used a trapping device to remove the animal, which was hissing and resisting despite severe internal injuries and paralyzed rear legs. The mortally injured cat was euthanized.

Black panther caught prowling French rooftops

PARIS (AP)—Emergency workers caught an unusual prowler lurking around roof-tops in northern France: a black panther. Firefighters and a veterinarian responded after residents of a neighborhood near Lille reported that a big

cat had been spotted "strolling on residential gutters" on Wednesday night. Photos taken after the fire brigade's arrival captured the panther making itself at home above ground, perching on building ledges and pacing outside a closed window. After firefighters secured a precautionary perimeter, the curious cat burglar slipped inside a house and workers trapped it. The animal was put to sleep with a drug dart and put in a

cage. It wasn't clear where the panther came from or if it had escaped from a zoo.

Bottoms up, fire's out: German man douses fire with beer

BERLIN (AP)—A German motorist is being credited for his quick thinking after his engine caught fire on the Autobahn. He turned to a slightly different foam extinguisher to douse the flames: bottles

of beer. Police told the dpa news agency Wednesday that the man was on the highway near the town of Hoesbach in Bavaria the day before when he smelled something odd. Pulling over, the man spotted flames under the hood of his car. He quickly grabbed bottles of beer from a case in his car and quenched the fire. Authorities say the fire department responded but there was nothing left for them to do.



UP A TREE

In this photo provided by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources is a 2-year-old bear in a tree in Orem, Utah, Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019. Orem police used their vehicle sirens to drive a 2-year-old bear up a tree after its presence in the central Utah caused traffic delays Wednesday morning. State Division of Wildlife Resources spokeswoman Faith Heaton Jolley said division personnel then were able to tranquilize the bear and remove it from the tree.



Life & Style

North Korea-born YouTubers offer peek into lives in homeland

SEOUL, South (AP)—Wearing a fedora, Jang Myung-jin shouts "Hello, comrades!" as he starts his YouTube broadcast, titled "A North Korean man, Tango." Then, he talks about whether North Koreans raise pet dogs, what type of profanity they use and whether there are any transgender people in the country.

The 32-year-old Jang is among a handful of young Korean refugees in South Korea who have launched YouTube channels that offer a rare glimpse into the everyday lives of people in North Korea, one of the world's most secretive and repressive countries.

While mainstream outside media reports on North Korea focus on heavy subjects like the North's nuclear program or its internal power hierarchy, these young YouTubers feed a growing demand for softer news related to daily life in their former home country.

Their rise comes amid increased public attention to North Korea, whose young leader, Kim Jong Un, has made global headlines with a provocative run of weapons tests and high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with President Donald Trump.

"There are people who yearn for real scenes showing how people in North Korea live. There is a niche market for that," said Jeon Young-sun, a research professor at Seoul's Konkuk University. "Simply speaking, some people are curious about what beer North Koreans drink and what cookies they eat."

Jang uses his Samsung smartphone to film himself at his small Seoul apartment, and sometimes invites fellow North Korean refugees as



In this July 18, 2019, photo, North Korean refugee Jang Myung-jin speaks during an interview at his house in Seoul, South Korea. The 32-year-old Jang is among a handful of young North Korean refugees in South Korea who have launched YouTube channels that offer a rare glimpse into the everyday lives of people in North Korea, one of the world's most secretive and repressive countries.

guests and has friends shoot him when he ventures out. He often appears with his trademark dark fedora, but sometimes with a colorful wig, a false mustache or even a Kim Jong Un mask.

Video clips uploaded on Jang's 2-year-old channel showed him saying that ordinary North Koreans usually raise dogs, rabbits, pigs and chickens, but to either eat or sell to markets. He said that calling someone "a baby born by a young female slave" is considered a profanity in North Korea, and that people there say "Do you want to have the order of your ribs revolutionarily reorganized?" when trying to intimidate others.

He also said he never heard

about the existence of transgender people in North Korea, though he heard about gays in the country.

Jang, who has about 7,000 subscribers to his channel, said he does manual labor and delivers fried chicken as a means of living because his YouTube-related income is too small. But he feels it's worth it to keep his YouTube career going because some subscribers have left messages saying his broadcasts helped resolve their misunderstandings of North Korea.

"They cheer me up and make me be positive. They are the reasons why I shoot YouTube videos today and tomorrow," Jang said, petting his Maltese.

He said the term "Tango"

in his channel's title is an abbreviation of Korean words meaning "a plump cat," a reference to his friends joking that the round-faced Jang has a catlooking face. Although he knew that tango in English is a type of dance, he decided to go ahead with that word because the liveliness of the dance matches what he seeks from his channel.

Other North Korea-born YouTubers talk about why they left their homeland and the experiences they've had in South Korea. Some also broadcast themselves putting on North Korean-style makeup or eating foods from the country.

The young YouTubers are mostly stylish, contrary to the stereotype of North Korean refugees as being rough and

unsophisticated. About 32,000 North Koreans have fled to the South over the past two decades to avoid poverty and political repression.

Kang Na-ra, a North Korean escapee who regularly appears on two YouTube channels and two TV programs, is called "Princess Na-ra" by her fans. The 22-year-old with long, brown-dyed hair said she has a 200-member fan club that has sent her a cake topped with a mini-Kang doll on her birthday for the past three years.

When Kang, dressed in a North Korean military uniform, showed how to put on North Korean-style makeup on her YouTube channel, her subscribers wrote, "You are so pretty even without makeup" and "You're such a beauty."

"I like communicating with people by posting responses to the messages that they put on my channel," said Kang, wearing two rings on each of her hands. "I want to let the people know about North Korean culture and show more about how I am living in South Korea."

The YouTubers, however, also have anti-fans who often vent their anger at them when North Korea does something provocative like conduct a weapons test.

Kang said she feels a "little sad" when she reads malicious messages from people such as "Go back to your country" and "Why does a Red live here?"

Jang said some messages have been left for him wishing for him to be assassinated with a poisoned needle or banished to a North Korean coal mine.

While there have been some TV programs in the South featuring North Korean refugees, some experts say they don't fully carry the escapees' voices because they were directed, filmed and edited by South Koreans.

"On YouTube, defectors can speak whatever they want without being filtered and edited. ... Given that, I would say their programs provide content that the TV shows can't provide," said Lee Kwang Baek, the South Korean head of a YouTube channel on North Korea.

Their YouTube programs are also believed to help address the widespread misinformation about North Korea in the South. Jang said a middle school student once asked him if North Koreans eat dirt when they're hungry, while another escapee-turned-YouTuber, Lee Pyung, said he was asked whether North Koreans give potatoes instead of money to a driver when they take a bus.

Second man arrested in probe of Mac Miller's overdose death

LOS ANGELES (AP)— An Arizona man has become the second person arrested on drug charges as authorities investigate the overdose death of

rapper Mac Miller. Police gave no details on the connection between him and 26-year-old Miller, who died a year ago in his Los Angeles home of an accidental overdose Miller of cocaine, alco-

hol and fentanyl, a powerful opioid that's contributed to a deadly epidemic in the U.S. and claimed other musicians, like Prince.

Ryan Reavis, 36, was

but has not been directly ac-similar to a silencer.

cused of causing Miller's death. Neither has Cameron James Pettit, 28, who was charged this month with selling drugs to Miller shortly before his death.

Authorities Arizona and federal agents served a search warrant Monday at Reavis' home in Lake Havasu City, where they said they seized prescription pills, marijuana, a doctor's

charged this week with pos- prescription pad, a pistol and sessing marijuana and pre- two shotguns, large amounts scription drugs as well as of ammunition and a homeweapons offenses and fraud made firearm suppressor

> Reavis was being held on \$50,000 bail, and police did not know if he had an attorney who could comment on his behalf.

> Pettit, who was charged in federal court on Sept. 4, has not yet entered a plea, and his attorney has declined comment. He's scheduled to be arraigned Oct. 10.

> Miller's rhymes included frank discussion of his depression and drug use, earning him fans among some of the biggest names in hip-hop.

With the Metropolitan Opera's Met's decision came on the eve bombshell announcement that of Wednesday's sold-out sea-Plácido Domingo will not take son opener of "Macbeth," amid the Met stage this week—and possibly ever again—the legendary singer's only scheduled U.S. appearances are set for next year in California, including at

cluding the Philadelphia Orchestra, San Francisco Opera and Dallas Opera—already had removed Domingo from upcoming performances in the wake of multiple sexual harassment allegations published

rising tensions inside the venerable institution and threats of protests planned for outside.

In a brief, carefully worded announcement Tuesday, the Met indicated that it had asked the famed tenor to step down, saying, "Plácido Domingo has agreed to withdraw from all future performances at the Met, effective immediately." In his own statement to Met staff, Domingo said that at the age of 78 he was happy to have sung the title role of "Macbeth" in the dress rehearsal, "which I consider my last performance on the Met stage."

Domingo said in Tuesday's statement, "I strongly dispute recent allegations made about me," without providing any specifics.

For years, Domingo has been the opera world's most bankable star, with the celebrity power to fill seats in an era of dwindling ticket sales. Over time, he has also widened his portfolio, becoming a prolific conductor and powerful administrator as the general director of two major American companies, first at Washington Opera and later at LA Opera, where he has held the post since 2003.

Domingo focus shifts to California, the last of his US shows



Three other companies—in-

Dern, Neill, Goldblum to return for 'Jurassic World 3'

NEW YORK (AP)— Jeff Goldblum, Laura Dern and Sam Neill will reprise their "Jurassic Park" roles in the upcoming "Jurassic World 3."

Their castings were announced Tuesday night by executive producer and director Colin Trevorrow at a screening of "Jurassic World" attended by

Dern. While Goldblum's Ian Malcolm appeared in 2018's "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom," Dern and Neill haven't been back with the dinosaurs since 2001's "Jurassic Park III."

All originated their roles in the 1993 original "Jurassic Park."

Trevorrow, who helmed 2015's "Jurassic World," will direct the next installment following J.A. Bayona's "Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom." Those two films grossed \$1.67 billion and \$1.3 billion, respectively.

"Jurassic World 3," starring Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard, is to be released in June 2021.

Reggaeton acts call out Latin Grammys for lack of noms

NEW YORK (AP)— Popular Latin performers such as J Balvin, Daddy Yankee and Maluma are lashing out at the Latin Grammys for dismissing musicians from the reggaeton and Latin trap world in the top categories at its upcoming awards show.

The Latin Grammys announced the nominees for its 2019 show Tuesday and the major categories— album of the year, song of the year and record of the year-didn't include performers like Balvin, Daddy Yankee, Bad Bunny, Nicky Jam, Maluma or Ozuna, though the stars have dominated on streaming services, sold out arenas like Madison Square Garden, racked in millions of YouTube views and topped the charts with multiple songs.

The omissions were especially surprising since the Latin Grammys have 10 nominees in its top categories.

Balvin, who was the most nominated act at the 2018 Latin Grammys with eight, posted a photo of the Grammy logo with a large red "X" across it on Instagram on Tuesday. Words on the image read in Spanish: "Without reggaeton, there's no Latin Grammys."

"For the culture and movement," Balvin wrote in his caption. Others performers shared the image across social media.

The Latin Recording Academy said in a statement to The

Associated Press on Wednesday that they followed "a strict voting process for the past 20 years" when it comes to its nominees.

"The members, through their votes, select what they believe merits a nomination. The Academy has never influenced their decisions, have always honored, and respected their elections, even if there are people who do not agree with the results," the statement continued. "Nevertheless, we hear the frustration and discontent. We invite the leaders of the urban community to get involved with the Academy, to get involved with the process, and to get involved with discussions that improve the Academy."

Balvin did receive two nominations— his collaborations with Rosalía ("Con Altura") and De La Ghetto ("Caliente") makes him a double nominee for best urban song—though he was shut out of record and song of the year. His new album with Bad Bunny, "Oasis," was not eligible for the 2019 Latin Grammys but qualifies in 2020. Songs and albums released between June 1, 2018 and May 31, 2019 were eligible, and the 20th annual show will air live on Nov. 14.

Nicky Jam and last year's winner for best new artist, Karol G, earned zero nominations while other stars like Bad Bunny, Daddy Yankee and Ozuna were restricted to categories such as best urban music album, best urban song and best urban fusion/performance.

"Despite being nominated, I don't agree with the way they treated the genre and a lot of my colleagues," Daddy Yankee wrote on Instagram. "Remember one very important thing, your platform was not the one that created this movement. This goes beyond a prize. This is culture, credibility, relevance and RESPECT."

Maluma, who won his first Latin Grammy last year for best contemporary pop vocal album and will headline Madison Square Garden next week, also received zero nominations. He had huge success with his fourth album "11:11," released in May. He wrote on Instagram that he was disappointed with the academy, adding that he's confused and doesn't know what to think.

"The only thing that stays clear is that the biggest prize is to see your concerts bursting and a public that loves you, and identifies with you. I love you my people, but I can't hide this feeling that hurts me deep inside. Congratulations to all of the nominees from my heart, it gives me a lot of happiness to see a lot of 'parceros' (Colombian slang for friends) there," he wrote.

NY Gov. Cuomo, Food Network star Sandra Lee announce split

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Food Network star Sandra Lee have broken up after more than a decade of dating.

The former couple announced the split with a joint statement issued Wednesday

"Over the recent past, we have realized that our lives have gone in different directions and our romantic relationship has turned into a deep friendship. We will always be family and are fully supportive of each other and dedicated to the girls," Lee and Cuomo wrote. "Our personal lives remain personal and there will be no further comment."

The couple started dating in 2005 and had not married. For many years Lee played the role of New York's first lady, appearing beside Cuomo at official functions but largely staying out of state politics.

Rumors of a breakup began earlier this year when Lee put the home she shared with Cuomo in the New York City suburbs on the market. Lee owns the home, while Cuomo shared the cost of living expenses and taxes.

Since then, Cuomo, a Democrat, has spent much of his time in the governor's mansion in Albany.

Lee, 53, is a TV host and cookbook author famous for her "semi-homemade" approach to cooking. She emerged as a vocal advocate for cancer screenings after her successful fight against the disease in 2015, which involved a double mastectomy. Cuomo championed the cause as well, successfully convincing lawmakers to increase access to breast cancer screenings.

Kylie Jenner hospitalized, will miss Paris Fashion Week

Kylie Jenner has been hospitalized with an undisclosed illness and will have to skip a planned cosmetics rollout at Paris Fashion Week.

The 22-year-old social media star and makeup mogul said on Twitter Wednesday

that she's "really sick and unable to travel."

A representative for Jenner says she's in the hospital but doing well.

Neither gave details on what illness sent her to the hospital.

On Tuesday, she had an-

nounced that a new collaboration between her makeup line, Kylie Cosmetics, and designer Olivier Rousteing of Balmain would be unveiled in Paris Friday.

Jenner says she's heartbroken but is excited to watch the event. (AP)



In this May 6, 2019 file photo, Kylie Jenner attends The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the "Camp: Notes on Fashion" exhibition in New York.

Disabled man conceals HIV diagnosis from his parents

EAR ABBY: I'm a man in my early 30s who was born with a moderately severe form of cerebral palsy. This disability has always been a major part of my life. As a child, I used a wheelchair and had several surgeries on my legs that were somewhat traumatic. However, through physical therapy and the encouragement of my parents, I was able to learn to do most things on my own, to the point that I got my own apartment, went to college and on to grad school. I support myself just fine.

The problem is, when I was 23 (10 years ago), I was diagosed with HIV It was contracted through sex during a time when I was depressed. It was difficult for me emotionally for a few months, but because of my experience with my disability, I was able to pull myself together pretty quickly.

Healthwise, I'm doing great, but I have never told my parents. They are in their early 60s and have worked in fields of government where they encountered HIV decades ago. I don't believe they have any current information about the disease and the effectiveness of treatment.

Should I tell them about my diagnosis? I'm constantly torn between a feeling that I should be raising awareness and destigmatizing HIV, and a fear that they aren't going to understand. I'm not sick, I'm not dying, and my life is not ruined. The advances of the past 30 years have allowed that. But I still feel like letting them know I'm HIV-positive would be a burden on them, especially after what I've faced with cerebral palsy.

Should I tell them? And what's the best approach?

POSITIVELY POSITIVE

DEAR POSITIVE: If your parents are intelligent, they should have some idea that HIV treatment has improved over the decades. Because you appear to be eager to "raise awareness," I suggest that you tell them about your status in as upbeat a manner as possible. Tell them you love them, that you are doing great, your meds are working well, but you thought they ought to know.

DEAR ABBY: I told a close girlfriend of mine I had bought my soon-to-be-born granddaughter a baby ring and plan on giving it to my daughter-in-law at the shower. I was really excited about it. A week later my friend texted me asking if she would be stepping on my toes if she bought the baby a little baby bracelet.

My first reaction was yes, and that she was trying to upstage me at the shower. At any rate, my baby ring would not be as special as I want it to be. Am I wrong in feeling this way? Is it appropriate for her to do that? Now I feel bad that I'm making my granddaughter miss out on a beautiful gift because of my selfishness. I would appreciate your help.

NOT SPECIAL IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR NOT SPECIAL: This may not be the answer you

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



are expecting, but I would be remiss if I didn't share my thoughts with you. I am concerned about the wisdom of buying a ring for a small child, particularly a baby. Babies spend a lot of time with their little hands in their mouths. You must know that the ring would not be worn by your granddaughter because such an item could choke an infant (and the bracelet, too, for that matter). Discuss that gift with the child's mother before giving it.

As to your friend's idea of a bracelet, if she was trying to upstage you, she wouldn't have told you about her idea. Let it go.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield_®

By Jim Davis

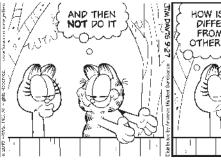


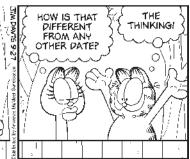












Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy





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Solution time: 25 mins. station name 31 Considered 35 Island of

format

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lola Kirke, 29; Anna Camp, 37; Tamara Taylor, 49; Meat Loaf, 72

Happy Birthday: Be careful about how you move forward. If you don't take care of unfinished business now, it will slow you down when your life and opportunities pick up. Settle any differences you have concerning those with whom you share space, financial responsibilities or anything else that may stop you from being able to reach your goal. Personal gains and an improved lifestyle are within reach. Your numbers are 4, 15, 21, 26, 30, 39, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can think big and plan all you want, but when it comes time to decide, take baby steps. Question each and every move you want to make, and go over details with the people who will be affected by your decisions.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change will give you a different perspective on the possibilities that are within reach. Talk to someone you trust, or ask an expert for specific information. How you approach your next big step

forward will make a difference. GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keep your emotions in check, your temper well-hidden and your charisma and friendly demeanor right out front for all to see. Mix business with pleasure, and you will be offered an exciting

proposal. Romance is in the stars. CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put your energy into something that interests you. A chance to do something unique or different will give you a rush and encourage you to make personal changes to the way you live or what you do for a living.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Consider the possibilities, and sign up to make the changes that will help you look, feel and offer your best. Using your knowledge, experience and skills to get what you want will lead to challenges with those who cannot keep up with you. 🛇 🔾 🔾

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take the plunge, and see what's available. Taking a trip, getting together with people you have enjoyed spending time with in the past or signing up to learn something new will all encourage you to make positive changes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Listen and show respect by show respect, but don't let anyone put you down or use emotional manipulation to get you to do things you don't want to do. Be blunt about your direction and how you see your

life unfolding. Honesty is the best policy. ••• SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): How you help others will make a difference. Honesty and sincerity will draw genuine

people to your side. Someone who knows your family history will offer valuable information. An exciting offer will spark your interest and bring about change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Protect your position. Someone will use emotional tactics to meddle in your private affairs. Financial loss can be prevented. Distance yourself from people trying to lure you into a fast-cash scheme.

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Keep secrets. If you share information, you

matter. QQQQQ AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't feel the need to help or follow someone when you should be doing your own thing. It's important not to put off something you

doesn't share your values and ethics. A change at

home will end up saving you money. Don't make

a snap decision regarding a contract or personal

will be disappointed by someone who

want to pursue. Take the initiative, and you won't be sorry. Romance is highlighted. ���

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep your plans simple. You'll make a significant impression on people who count if you can stick to a budget. A partnership should be supportive, not taxing or stressful. A change that includes someone you know you can trust is en-

couraged. 🛇 😂 🗅 Birthday Baby: You are charming, persuasive and fashionable. You are insightful and entertaining.

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Conceptis Sudoku

Ry Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row each column

and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

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WONDERWORD OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY; All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDELEWORD. ABBEY ROAD' 50TH ANNIVERSARY Solution: 10 letter

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Beatles, Beetle, Cool. Cross, Garden, George, Golden, Harrison, Here Comes the Sun, I Want You. John, Judu Eyeballs, Lennon, London, Martin, Maxwell. McCartney. Mean, Moog, Mr. Mustard, Octopus, Oh Darling, Old Hat Top, Paul, Piano, Polythene Pam, Ringo, Slumbers, Something, Starr, Sun King, Together, Volkswagen, Walk, Zebra Yesterday's Answer: Fluent

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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE **NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN RETHE MATTER OF: CIVIL ACTION NO.19-0292-CV ALEXANDER DLG. BORJA) NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS Deceased.)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on October 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. in the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, and Alex Olympio Borja will petition the court for Letters of Administration for his appointment as Administrator of the Estate of Alexander DLG. Borja, deceased. The attorney of record is Juan T. Lizama, whose address is: P.O. Box 501508, Saipan, MP, 96950.

Any interested person may appear at this

All persons having claim against the estate, or with the Clerk of the Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands within 60 days after the first publication of this Notice of Hearing.

Dated this 20th day of September, 2019.

/s/ CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT

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Brewers clinch playoff spot; Twins win AL Central



Brewers wrapped up their second straight postseason appearance Wednesday night, with Ryan Braun's grand slam sparking a 9-2 victory over the Cincinnati Reds that also tightened the NL Central race.

The Brewers have won six in a row and 17 of 19 despite losing MVP Christian Yelich to a broken kneecap, vaulting from also-ran to at least a wild card. There's more at their fingertips—the division-leading Cardinals lost again, slicing their lead over the Brewers to 1 1/2 games.

Milwaukee trails Washington by one game for the wild card lead.

The Brewers jogged onto the field and formed a scrum by second base after when Junior Guerra got Christian Colon on a grounder for the final out.

Braun had a solo shot in a 4-2 win in the series opener, and got the celebration started early Wednesday with his eighth career grand slam in the first inning. Teammates were on their feet, leaning against the dugout railing in anticipation of a big night, when he connected off Tyler Mahle (2-12). When Eric Thames followed with another homer, Brewers players jubilantly smacked the green padding atop the dugout railing. Keston Hiura also connected off Mahle

Starter Jordan Lyles (12-8) contributed an infield single and scored a run during the Brewers' surge to an 8-1 lead after three innings.

Lyles gave up Eugenio Suárez's 49th homer, which moved him ahead of Mike Schmidt and Adrián Beltré for the modern NL record by a third baseman. George Foster holds the club record of 52 in 1977.

In Detroit, Luis Arraez and Eddie Rosario homered, Randy Dobnak allowed one hit in six innings and Minnesota beat the Tigers, 5-1, then won the AL Central title when Cleveland lost to the White Sox in Chicago.

Minnesota earned its first division title since 2010 and only its second postseason appearance since then. The Twins (98-60) have their highest victory total since the 1970 team also won 98 games.

Dobnak (2-1) allowed no scoring after an unearned run in the first. Arraez hit a two-run homer in the seventh off Drew VerHagen (4-3). Nelson Cruz added an RBI single in the eighth, and Rosario's two-run shot that inning made it 5-1.

The Tigers (46-111) are assured of baseball's worst record and the No. 1 pick in next year's draft.



Astros 3, Mariners 0

In Seattle, Zack Greinke came within two outs of pitching the third no-hitter by Houston this year, losing his bid on a single by rookie Austin Nola in the ninth inning.

Greinke (18-5) was in complete control while trying for his first career no-hitter. He drew cheers from the orange-shirted Astros fans when he took the mound to begin the ninth and retired Tom Murphy on a grounder.

Nola, in an 0-for-16 slump, was up next and dumped a liner into shallow left-center field. Center fielder Jake Marisnick made a diving attempt but came up well short and pounded his fist on his leg.

Greinke gave up another single to Tim Lopes and was replaced after throwing 108 pitches. Will Harris got his third save.

Houston posted its franchise-high 104th win and moved one step closer to home-field advantage throughout the postseason.

Greinke struck out nine and walked one.

Nationals 5, Phillies 3

In Washington, Wilmer Difo drove in the go-ahead run with an RBI single in the seventh inning and Anibal Sanchez pitched seven solid innings to help the Nationals beat Philadelphia.

The Nationals maintained a one-game lead over Milwaukee in the race for the top NL wild card.

Washington faced a 2-1 deficit when Asdrubal Cabrera singled and Yan Gomes doubled with one out in the seventh. Victor Robles followed with a sacrifice fly that tied it. Difo, who was making his first start since May 16, followed with a single to right-center off reliever Mike Morin (1-3) that scored Gomes.

Howie Kendrick and Brian Dozier homered for the Nationals. Sanchez (11-8) allowed two runs and six hits, striking out seven without a walk. Sean Doolittle earned his first save since a stint on the injured list.

Diamondbacks 9, Cardinals 7

In Phoenix, Pinch-hitter Paul Goldschmidt grounded into a game-ending double play with two runners on the base and NL Central-leading St. Louis fell short in a ninth-inning rally against Arizona.

St. Louis and Arizona were back on the field about 11 hours after the Diamondbacks' 3-2 victory in 19 innings, a game that took nearly seven hours. Cardinals starter Michael Wacha was pulled in the second inning with tightness in his right shoulder.

Errors by rookie third baseman Tommy Edman and catcher Matt Wieters helped Arizona score seven times in the sixth for a 9-5 lead. Wilmer Flores homered during the burst.

The Cardinals loaded the bases with one out in the ninth

and Matt Wieters hit a tworun single. Goldschmidt, who homered in the first two games of the series in his return to the desert, hit a grounder off former and teammate Archie Bradley and Arizona turned two to end it.

Pirates 4, Cubs 2

In Pittsburgh, the collapsing Chicago Cubs were eliminated from playoff contention shortly before losing their eighth straight game, falling to the Pirates.

Back-to-back wild pitches by David Phelps in the eighth inning enabled Pittsburgh to score the winning run. Just before Phelps' bout with wildness, Milwaukee clinched the second NL wild card with a victory at Cincinnati. The Cubs will miss the playoffs for the first time since 2014.

Chicago's skid included four one-run defeats at the hands of NL Central-leading St. Louis last weekend.

Phelps entered in relief with the score tied 2-2 and walked Pablo Reyes to put runners on first and second with one out. José Osuna drew a walk from Brad Wieck (1-2) before scoring on the wild pitches, and Erik González added a sacrifice fly.

White Sox 8, Indians 3

In Chicago, Shane Bieber got tagged early and Cleveland lost ground in the AL wild-card race, falling to the White Sox.

Cleveland lost for the second time in its last nine tries and dropped 1 1/2 games behind Tampa Bay for the second AL wild-card spot.

A throwing error by first baseman Carlos Santana put the Indians behind at the start. Bieber (15-8) had won three in a row, but allowed five runs — three earned — on 10 hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Jose Ramírez hit a solo home run for Cleveland. On Tuesday night, in his first two plate appearances after missing a month with a broken hand, he hit a grand slam and a three-run homer.

Mets 10, Marlins 3

In New York, Pete Alonso hit his major league-high 51st home run, one short of the rookie record, and Jacob deGrom made his last overpowering pitch for a repeat Cy Young Award as the Mets routed Miami in an easy win that wasn't enough to keep the Mets in the playoff hunt.

New York was eliminated from the NL wild-card race when Milwaukee secured the league's final postseason berth by completing a 9-2 victory in Cincinnati as the Mets batted in the eighth.

Rays 4, Yankees O

In St. Petersburg, Charlie Morton and the Tampa Bay bullpen combined on a one-hitter and the Rays held their lead in the AL wild-card race, beating New York.

Tampa Bay began the night in the second wild-card spot, a half-game ahead of Cleveland Cincinnati Reds shortstop Jose Iglesias (4) loses the ball after tagging out Milwaukee Brewers' Orlando Arcia on a steal attempt during the ninth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019, in Cincinnati.

and a half-game behind Oakland. The Rays swept a two-game series from the 102-win Yankees, holding them to DJ LeMahieu's soft, clean single to right field with two outs in the sixth inning off Morton (16-6).

Braves 10, Royals 2

In Kansas City, Josh Donaldson had a career-high three doubles while driving in four runs, Dansby Swanson had a career-high four hits while driving in two, and NL East champion Atlanta cruised past the Royals.

With their playoff seed secure and nothing on the line, the Braves sent reliever Josh Tomlin to the mound for his first start of the season. Luke Jackson (9-2) was among six relievers to go the rest of the way, helping the Braves snap a four-game skid to the Royals.

Red Sox 10, Rangers 3

In Arlington, Christian Vázquez, Mitch Moreland and Rafael Devers homered, and Rick Porcello won what could be his final start for Boston.

Porcello (14-12), who will be a free agent, allowed all three runs on six hits, no walks and two hit batters in six innings. He matched a season high with eight strikeouts and retired his last 11 batters.

Vázquez broke a third-inning tie with a two-run homer. It was Boston's 239rd homer this season, breaking the franchise record set in 2003.

Blue Jays 3, Orioles 2

In Toronto, Rowdy Tellez hit two solo home runs, Jacob Waguespack pitched six shutout innings and the Blue Jays beat Baltimore.

Tellez hit a leadoff drive against right-hander Gabriel Ynoa (1-10) in the fourth, then followed up with an opposite-field shot off left-hander Paul Fry to begin the sixth.

Billy McKinney got Toronto started with the first leadoff home run of his career, lining Ynoa's second pitch of the game over the wall in right.

Giants 2, Rockies 1

In San Francisco, Jaylin Davis hit his first career home run to end it with one out in the ninth, sending the Giants past Colorado.

Will Smith (6-0) struck out the side in the ninth for the win before Davis connected on a 3-2 pitch from DJ Johnson (0-2)

Ben Simmons ready to take challenge of new season

(AP)—Videos of Ben Simmons making jumpers flooded social media over the summer and the All-Star point guard

is ready to take his game to another level when the Philadelphia 76ers open camp next week.

"I feel like this summer I fell in love with the game again," Simmons told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "I kind of got back to who I was and having fun with the game. I felt like the past season I lost that enjoyment side of it but I feel like this summer has been huge for me. Just the work I've been putting in, I kinda fell in love with putting that work in again and I've been in the gym every day working and the results have been paying off so I'm excited for the season to start.

Simmons, the No. 1 overall draft pick in 2016, has helped lead the Sixers to the second round of the NBA playoffs two straight seasons after making his debut in 2017. He was the Rookie of the Year that season and an All-Star for the first time last season. Simmons has averaged 16.4 points, 8.5 rebounds and 7.9 assists and signed a \$170 million, five-year contract extension in July.

Philadelphia is 101-58 in regular-season games when Simmons plays. He has had 22 triple-doubles in the past two seasons, tied for third most in the league with Denver's Nikola Jokic and trailing Oklahoma City's Russell Westbrook (59) and the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron

Simmons also has had 80 double-doubles over the past

But the one knock against Simmons has been his reluctance to shoot long jumpers and 3-pointers. He's 0 for 18 from beyond the arc, so defenses often focus on taking away his ability to drive to the basket and dare him to shoot.

He's up for the challenge.

"I'm ready to be who I am as a player, continue to develop, keep working," Simmons said. "It's a process. It takes time. Obviously, people always want to see results straightaway but that's not how things work."

Simmons decided to focus on improving his game instead of playing for the Australian team at the FIBA World Cup earlier this month in China. He rediscovered his love for basketball during those long hours in the gym and admitted the criticism weighed on him at times.

"I think sometimes you kind of get too deep into it where you listen to other people which should never be the thing you do unless they're giving you positive feedback or trying to help you get better because there's a lot of negativity out there," Simmons said, pointing to various social media platforms.

"It's huge once you kind of block that out, you don't really care, you kinda go out there feeling free. You don't care if you miss a shot because everyone misses a shot so that's one of the things that I think this summer I got back to how I was as a player just playing and doing what I love at a high level."

Despite being a lightning rod for criticism in Philadelphia, Simmons says he enjoys playing in front of a passionate fan base.

"I love being in Philadelphia. I wouldn't want to be

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anywhere else," he said. "I think this is the perfect place for me. I just handle (criticism) how it comes."

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Simmons heard plenty of lyn in April. He had nine boos after a poor performance points, seven rebounds, and in Philadelphia's first-round three assists and shot 1 for 5 NBA star Ben Simmons slams a dunk to celebrate Mission Tiger-Kellogg's Frosted Flakes' new initiative to save middle school sports-at Cooper's Poynt Family School.

a loss. Afterward, Simmons said: "If you're gonna boo, then stay on that side."

Simmons answered with his second career playoff tripledouble in Game 2, finishing with 18 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds as Philadelphia reeled off four straight wins. He looks back at it as a learning experience.

"I had a terrible first game and I loved it when people are tweeting me saying all these negative things because the next game I came out (and played better)," Simmons said. "It kinda fires me up a little."

Why does he even pay attention to the critics flexing their keyboard muscles?

"It's hard to avoid. It's hard to not see," Simmons said. "I've done a better job of not watching certain things in terms of what people are saying but that was a good example of people not giving me positive feedback and I had to respond."

The Sixers revamped their roster in the offseason, losing Jimmy Butler and J.J. Redick and adding Al Horford and Josh Richardson and retaining Tobias Harris to play with Simmons and fellow All-Star Joel Embiid.

"We're locked in. We're ready to play," Simmons said. "We've been in the gym. We've been there early. We're competing trying to get each other better from the rooks to the guys who are vets. I think it's going to be an exciting year for the 76ers."

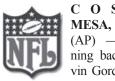
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Gordon to end holdout, rejoin Chargers



C O S T A MESA, Calif. — Running back Melvin Gordon will

end his holdout and report to the Los Angeles Chargers on Thursday, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Wednesday because he wasn't at liberty to publicly discuss the situation. The running back has been absent since the start of training camp due to a contract dispute.

Gordon is not expected to play Sunday when the Chargers (1-2) travel to Miami (0-3). Los Angeles' next two games after the Dolphins are at home against Denver and Pittsburgh.

"I don't think you walk in camp and just play right away. You can run and do all the drills you want but it is hard to simulate real football," coach Anthony Lynn said before practice Wednesday.

Gordon was slated to make \$5.6 million on the fifth-year option of his rookie contract. That amount decreased by approximately \$329,412 for each game he misses. Gordon also is subject to fines of up to \$40,000 under the collectivebargaining agreement for each day he missed training camp.

General manager Tom Telesco suspended contract talks with Gordon's agents until after the season. Gordon was seeking an extension of \$13 million to \$14.4 million per season, which was equivalent to deals signed by Todd Gurley, David Johnson and Le'Veon Bell. The Chargers offered around \$10 million per year.

Gordon has gained over 1,200 yards from scrimmage and scored 10 or more touchdowns in three straight seasons, but the Chargers offense has not sputtered in his absence. Austin Ekeler leads AFC running



Los Angeles Chargers running back Melvin Gordon, left, dives into the end zone for a touchdown during the second half of an NFL divisional playoff football game against the New England Patriots, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2019, in Foxborough, Mass.

backs in yards from scrimmage and Justin Jackson is averaging 7.9 yards per carry.

Chargers running backs are averaging 5.4 yards per carry, which is third best in the league and over a yard more than the NFL average.

Quarterback Philip Rivers said he has not talked to Gordon for a little while and that it would be up to Lynn on how to handle his return.

"I know it would be good to see him," Rivers said.

Disgruntled Jalen Ramsey leaves Jags

In Jacksonvile, disgruntled cornerback Jalen Ramsey has left the Jacksonville Jaguars to be with his family for the birth of his second child.

The team made the sur-

prising announcement with a statement from coach Doug Marrone on Wednesday night, adding to Ramsey's ongoing trade saga.

"Months ago in the offseason, Jalen notified me that he was expecting the birth of his second child in late September," Marrone said. "We spoke about this recently and again today after practice and decided that it was best for Jalen to fly to Nashville tonight after meetings to be with his family during the birth of their daughter.

"He will return to the team when he's ready, and we will provide an update at that time."

Ramsey's paternal leave it's unclear how long he could be gone—is the latest twist in a weird week for Jacksonville's star cornerback.

Ramsey missed practice Wednesday because of an apparent back injury that Marrone said he knew nothing about until earlier in the day. Marrone chuckled through a series of questions about his star defender and said "his back got tight."

"It's normal. His back has gotten tight before," Marrone said. "My back's tight, a couple guys' backs are tight. A couple guys have hamstrings. Everyone gets the stuff."

But Ramsey's agent, David Mulugheta, told NFL Network that Ramsey reported back and ankle issues during last Thursday's game against Tennessee. Mulugheta said Ramsey also met with team trainers Friday to discuss his injuries.

The team responded by trying to clarify the mix-up, saying Ramsey reported back soreness to the team's medical staff during the fourth quarter of the 20-7 victory over the Titans. But that information somehow didn't get relayed to Marrone.

Ramsey also missed practice Monday because of an apparent illness, fueling speculation that he was making up reasons to skip practice. That came a little more than a week after the disgruntled defender called his agent and said "my time is up here in Jacksonville."

The next day, Ramsey told a podcast featuring several NFL players that his trade request stemmed from "some disrespectful things said on their end" in a meeting after Jacksonville lost at Houston on Sept. 15 — a game that included Ramsey and Marrone screaming at each other on the sideline. Several players have since confirmed that personnel chief Tom Coughlin ripped Ramsey outside the visiting locker room after the game.

Ramsey confirmed his discontentment with the front office last week, but insisted he would play hard as long as he's still on the team.

The Jaguars would prefer to keep Ramsey, believing it's unlikely for them to get equal value for one of the league's top cornerbacks. But they also have no idea how he will react moving forward. The NFL trade deadline is Oct. 29.

Jacksonville (1-2) plays at Denver (0-3) on Sunday.



Calif.-'round, Gather one and all, for the season premiere of the Phil Mickelson

Experience.

Mickelson was center stage Wednesday at the Safeway Open, shaking off some rust by teaming with NBA superstar Stephen Curry in the pro-am. He strode to the first tee like the mayor of Napa, shaking hands and posing for pictures and introducing himself to nearly evervone within reach.

Dressed in a black shirt and white shorts, Lefty now officially qualifies as svelte. The weight-loss program he started at The Open in July has him nearly 30 pounds trimmer, back to the top end of his weight range when he was in college at Arizona State in the

Mickelson trying everything to turn back clock early '90s. The physique overhaul has injected a youthful vibrancy, as a man who is fast approaching his 50th birthday tries everything he can to turn

back the clock. The laid-back antics continued throughout the round, with Curry and Mickelson chatting their way around the North Course. Mickelson offered advice on the greens for the two-time NBA MVP, and both made a detour on the third hole to try their hand at a long-distance champagne cork shot contest. The two even shared in Curry's signature shimmy dance move after Mickelson rolled in a 15-foot birdie on the final hole.

There were plenty

laughs, smiles and thumbs-up for the NorCal fans who came out to witness a cross-sport intersection. It also happened to put the actual golf on the back burner for the five-time major champ.

Mickelson has been something of a revelation in recent months, turning over a new leaf that few thought he had in him even after standing at the forefront of the sport for more than two decades. His Twitter account has taken social media by storm, featuring video chats with other players and advice on how to build the best calves in equal measure. It's a light-hearted window into the dry humor and savage one-liners that have previously been reserved for the inside of Tour locker rooms.

"It made me laugh because at the beginning of it, my buddies are like, 'It's not him.' I'm like, 'Trust me, it's him.' If you read the stuff he says back and watch everything, it's nobody but Phil," said Justin Thomas. "We're living in a day and age where social media kind of takes over the world and it is bizarre, but I think he's enjoying it a lot more than he thought he was going to. I know I am."

The explosion of Mickelson's off-course makeover, replete with exercise tips and candid beach snapshots, has coincided with a dramatic drop-off of his on-course form. A victory

at the AT&T Pebble Beach in February that signaled a possible breakthrough instead led to an improbable slide, one that again left him short of the Tour Championship and featured just a single top-35 finish in 16 subsequent starts.

While the terms "Mickelson" and "consistent" have never exactly been intertwined, this year was uncharted territory. At multiple points he spoke with candor about his active search for a spark or turnaround coming up empty.

"Probably the worst six months of my career," Mickelson said Wednesday. "I'm determined to fix it."

Barring a sudden turnaround, Mickelson is about to

miss playing in his first U.S. team event since the 1993 Ryder Cup. His world ranking, which has dropped from 17th to 43rd since his Pebble victory, must stay inside the top 60 by next spring or Mickelson might not automatically qualify for the U.S. Open.

More so than any of his peers, Mickelson has found effective tools with which to keep Father Time at bay. But no one can hold out forever.

"I wasn't mentally sharp or focused the last five or six months, and it led to some very poor play," Mickelson said. "I'm taking a little bit of a different route this time. I'm not going to put as many hours in and I'm going to try to be more focused on the time I do put in and enjoy it a little more and see if I can get it turned around."

RNV Construction beats IT&E Dark

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA



RNV Construction defeated IT&E Dark, 75-71, in their make-

up game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Tuesday at the

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

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Chisu Song was among the top performers in the 13th Annual Pacific Islands Club

International Point Break Championship held last Sat-

Song ruled the men's pro flowboard division after collecting 49.9 points in the finals. He won over PIC's Keoni Ichihara (47.6) and Thomas Reyes (47.5). Song advanced to the championship round after dominating Norjay Hipolito in the semis, 51.4-33.6, while Ichihara prevailed over Cody

urday at PIC.

Civic Center Court.

The win gave RNV a 4-2 record, keeping its playoff hopes alive, as the team moved up to No. 6 spot in the team standings. IT&E Dark fell to a 4-6 mark, dropping to No. 8 in the rankings. The Top 8 squads (out of the 12 teams) after the round-robin elimination will move into the playoffs

Ronald Rueda scored 21 points for RNV, including a clutch triple that helped his team regain the lead, 71-69. Andy Mortos and Ariel Baul added one field goal apiece to seal the deal for RNV. Mortos finished with 16 points, while Baul had 7, 5 of them came in

Song leads PIC Point Break winners

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB

the fourth quarter where IT&E Dark threatened to steal the victory from RNV.

The fourth period started with RNV hanging on to a 55-51 lead, which IT&E Dark overhauled after making four triples in the final canto. IT&E grabbed the upper hand, 69-68, but its stay on the driver's

seat was short-lived, as Rueda came to RNV's rescue.

Rueda managed to topscore for RNV despite making only one basket in the first quarter that ended with his squad ahead by only a deuce, 15-13. Rueda then added 5 in the second period, which belonged to Mortos, as the RNV forward drilled 9 points to increase their lead to 6 at halftime, 39-33.

RNV went on to keep its ad-

vantage in the third with Rueda scoring 9 of their last 12 points in the penultimate frame.

RNV Construction 75— Rueda 21, Mortos 16, Padolina 10, Odicta 8, Baul 7, Biscocho 6, Taraya 4, Tagle 2.

IT&E Dark 71—Devero 18, Chan 14, Cabanas 10, Aguon 9, Alegre 8, Cabrera 7, Garcia 2, Basco 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-13, 39-33, 55-51, 75-71.



Winners and organizers of the 13th Annual Pacific Islands Club International Point Break Championship pose for a photo at the conclusion of the competition held last Saturday at PIC

In the women's pro flowboard division, Jin Ji An edged Se Young Kim, 41.4-41.2 to notch the championship. Rounding out the Top 3 was Song Kyung Cho, who registered 38.7 points.

Leon, 45.3-31.8, and Reyes

downed Ryuta Onuki, 45, 42.5.

There was also a close battle in the finals of the pro mix bodyboard division with Min Kyu Ryou registering 45 points to beat Ho Cheul Jae (43.5). In third place was Do Hyun Kim, who marked 42. 1 points.

In the open bodyboard division, Wynn Brillo and Se Young Kim were the top finishers. Brillo logged 41.8 points in the men's event to win over Jin Hoo Ryou (40.4) and Reves (40.3). In the women's field, Kim's 40.8 points in the finale bested the 38.5 and 37.9 registered by Jjaya Youn and Song Kyung Cho, respectively.

In the mixed intermediate bodyboard division, Hee Jun

Hwang posted 30.1 points to finish ahead of Jin Ho Kim (25.9) and Gabriel Kim (23.7). In the beginners category, Je Damin was the top finisher after earning 26.8 points and he was followed by Gabriel Kim (26.4) and Saeem Reza (23.4).

For the grommets division (U11 age group) Je Damin was named the champion after scoring 26 points, way ahead of the 8 markers of Je

Hwan Ryu.

Winners in all divisions received assorted gifts and gift certificates from Point Break sponsors, which included E-Land Group's Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Kensington, and Coral Ocean Golf Resort, Pepsi, Gatorade, Monster, Pacific Trading, Co., Bridge Capital, LLC, Kanoa Resort, Hyatt Regency, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Trench Tech, and Triple J Wholesale.

Caravan's 68—Andrew

16, Standish 11, Factor 10,

Younis 9, Rasa 6, Maratita 6,

Scoring by quarters: 25-

Quan 4, Rotap 3, Sablan 3.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

RNV Constructions' Ronald Rueda takes off for a shot during an earlier game against Tsingtao in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League at the Civic Center Court. Rueda scored 21 points in RNV's 75-71 victory over IT&E Dark last Tuesday

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spot for the former when the match kicked off. Alvin Pantola stepped up in the second canto with his 13 points, but his efforts was voided by the balance offense of MS Villagomez, which kept the double-digit spread after the first half, 49-36.

In was the same story in the second, as MS Villagomez continued to get contributions from multiple players, while only Jedial Manalo stood out for Toyota in the third quarter and Lauron doing the same in fourth.

Dela Cruz paced MS Villagomez with his 20 points,

while Matt Richardson added 19. Six other MS Villagomez players chipped in at least 6 points apiece. Pantola led Toyota with his 21 markers, while Lauron logged 18.

In the first game, Saipan Vegas buckled down to work in the second quarter to set up the 29-point winning margin.

Ahead by only 6 after the first canto, 25-19, Coby Santos anchored Saipan Vegas' breakaway in the second after delivering 13 points. He knocked in three triples, as he nearly made half of Saipan Vegas' total output to bring their lead to twin digits by halftime, 54-36.

Santos, who had 8 points in the first period, was held

to one basket in the third, but came back strong in the fourth to finish off Caravan's. He drilled three more triples in the final canto to round up the game with 35 points and finished with a double double, as he also collared 10 rebounds.

Caravan's, after scoring a league-best 144 points in their previous game (versus TanHoldings) was held to 68 points, clearly missing the services of gunner Ken Viray.

First Game

Saipan Vegas 97—Santos 35, P. Basa 15, Atan 14, Schmidt 9, Sablan 6, Kabiriel 6, Deleon Guerrero 5, Rabauliman 4, Diaz 2, E. Basa 1.

19, 54-35, 75-49, 97-68. **Second Game**

MS Villagomez 100— Dela Cruz 20, Richardson 19, Manibusan 14, Kwon 11, Deleon Guerrero 9, King 9, Aughenbaugh 7, Teregeyo 6, Guerrero 2, Pangelinan 2, Villagomez 1.

AK Tovota 78—Pantola 21. Lauron 18, Manalo 10, Fitial 10, De Guzman 6, Boswell 5, Catalla 5, Francis 2, Kintol 1.

Scoring by quarters: 32-17, 49-36, 72-58, 100-78.

able before 2021.

hopefully we can start something sooner than later because we've been telling them (FEMA) that we need the facilities restored back to standard because of the 2021 Games. We're running out of time, if they start maybe by next year, the facilities should be done and ready before the 2021 Games," Rogolifoi said.

GSM. The Mariners took the No. 2 spot in the team rankings with still one game left (versus Blue Jays this Saturday) in the

elimination following an 11-3 triumph over GSM last weekend. GSM ended up with a 6-4 record, while the Blue Jays hold a 4-5 slate. The Aces and Rockies were the two other teams that joined this season's competition and got the early boot after forfeiting two

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matches each.

After a quick 1-2-3 inning at the bottom of the first, the Mariners came to work in the second and third to take control of the match. Nate Camacho hit a two-run double in the second inning where the Mariners made six runs, while the squad added three more in the third, thanks to Ton Tenorio's three-run triple.

The Mariners never looked back, as they shut down GSM after giving up three runs at the top of the first inning.

In the other game last weekend, the Bears banked on a five-run bottom of the third inning to thwart the Blue Jays' upset bid.

The Blue Jays led after two and a half innings, 4-1, as they got two runs in the first off the Bears' error and two more at the top of the third off a passed ball and Auriel Mendiola's double.

A.J. Lizama put the Bears on the board at the bottom of the first off a fielder's choice and the defending champions went on to grab the lead from the Blue Jays at the bottom of the third after posting five runs. Fred Songao blasted a two-run single in the pivotal third. Jose Lizama had a sacrifice bunt, and Angel Palacios and Peyton Lizama reached off the Blue Jays' errors.

A.J. Lizama also made it home off the Blue Jays' miscue in the sixth inning to counter Josenio Alvarez's run in the fifth and give the Bears cushion, going into the top of the seventh. The defending champions went on to finish the last inning in style, capping the top of the seventh with a double play.

OLEAI

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for proposals.

Who will oversee the repair work?

Despite the inkling of good news from FEMA, Rogolifoi said worries remain about whether NMSA will even be overseeing the renovation and overall maintenance of the facility next year.

NMSA did not receive al-

location from the budget approved for fiscal year 2019-2020 yesterday, leaving the association with less than \$50,000 to manage the facility and pay its staff.

"The governor is going to fund the 2021 Mini Games, that's OK, but my worry is the preparation of the facilities, especially with FEMA coming in," Rogolifoi said.

The NMSA official said they could still run the facilities for free for a month or so with assurance that a new funding source will be sought out for the maintenance of the facility.

"That's my recommendation, to run it for free temporarily, until we can find some money and that's what they're doing up there, they're trying to identify funding to run at least one more year just so we can prepare the facilities and get it ready for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games, "Rogolifoi said.

The CNMI Sports Hall of Famer added that if the reno-

vation process begins next year, the facility may be avail-

"We're still waiting, so

Gordon to end holdout, rejoin Chargers

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Oleai repair to push through

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA rimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com REPORTER

36 FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2019

espite the impending closure of the Oleai Sports Complex, the facility will still undergo repairs. The Federal Emergency Management Agency has assured the Northern Marianas Sports Association that they will give the go-ahead for the renovation of the Oleai Sports Complex in time for the CNMI's hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games.



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

According to NMSA

FEMA officials will

issue a notice to pro-

drennial event

ceed for the project

to fix the dilapidated

sports complex that will

be the main hub for the qua-

"As for the timeline, we

executive

Tony

director

Rogolifoi,

MS Villagomez's John Babauta is fouled by AK Toyota's Jedial Manalo, left, during their game in the Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada

Saipan Vegas still perfect; MSV wins

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO REPORTER

Saipan Vegas and MS Villagomez earned lopsided victories in the Atkins Kroll exploded for Marianas Interna-

tional Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MS Villagomez dominated AK Toyota in the second game, 100-78, while Saipan Vegas routed Caravan's in the curtain-raiser, 97-68. Saipan Vegas remained undefeated in five games to take the solo lead in the 10team lead, while Caravan's absorbed its second loss in three matches for third place.

MS Villagomez moved up to sixth spot with its 2-2 slate, while AK Toyota dropped to a 2-3 mark

> for seventh place. MS Villagomez points in the first

quarter to ease its way to win No. 2. It had five players scoring at least two field goals apiece for the team's strong start. Keoni Dela Cruz led MS Villagomez's opening-quarter assault after firing 7 points.

Toyota failed to match MS Villagomez's firepower in the first period, as Alex Lauron was the lone bright

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KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

don't know yet, but they The dilapidated windows at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium are are definitely going to awaiting repairs after sustaining significant damage from Super Tycome in and do the phoon Yutu last year. restoration of the fa-

situation with FEMA, they want to make sure that everything is in place before they issue the notice to proceed," Rogolifoi said.

The NMSA executive director added that funding is there and has already been reserved for the project. Currently, NMSA is just waiting for FEMA's green light so the association can issue a request

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By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Playoff pairings in SBL set

cilities at the complex

to prep for the 2021

Pacific Mini Games.

Because we sustained dam-

age from two storms and we

have not started the restoration

work because of the insurance

ROSELYN B. MONROYO A Blue Jays batter swings during the first round game in the regular season of the 2019 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.



ing champions Chalan Kanoa Bears and second-

running Mariners will be pitted against the Blue Jays and Go See Mark, respectively, when the semis round of the 2019 Saipan Baseball League kicks off next weekend at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Bears secured the No. 1 seed in the playoffs after pulling off a 7-5 victory against the Blue Jays last Saturday and wrapping up the doubleround robin elimination with a 9-1 record. The Bears and Blue Jays will collide in a best-of-three semis series.

The same format will be in effect in the Final Four duel between the Mariners and

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